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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

'QUAN DOI NHAN DAN' REPORTER VISITS KAMPUCHEA

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 3 Dec 80 p 2

[Article by Tran Hoai Thu: "Kampuchea Today"]

[Text] 1. The Color of Green Rice

We arrived at Takeo, the rice basket of the east. The people there had recently undergone a fierce test of strength with nature. Half a month before we arrived, when the rice was just beginning to grow, there was a drought. There was hot sun one day after another. Fresh green fields of rice took on the color of burned grass. The crimes of Pol Pot became even more evident: the irrigation projects he forced the people to dig were fragmented and could not bring water into the fields.

Should they give up? An urgent meeting was held. Everyone contributed recommendations. Early the next morning all the people -- young and old alike -- living in Pase Village went to the fields to carry water with which to irrigate the rice.

Heaven will not play second fiddle to man: only 5 days later, when the rice was regaining its fresh color, the rain suddenly poured down. When the rice met the water it grew large heads. The village people were overjoyed and happily splashed one another with water, pleased that the 10th month rice crop was certain to produce a bountiful harvest.

We arrived on the day the village people were holding a "ron vong" dance festival outdoors. Many "chap-srau" birds circled above, which portended that the people could have enough to eat in the future. The first person we met was Mr. Son-Ret, head of the No 1 production solidarity team.

He practically shouted, "You have arrived just at the time when comrade Pol Xa-Ruon, chairman of the Revolutionary People's Committee, is present here."

We would meet him without having made an appointment, which was very fortunate for us. At that urgent time of the year the chairman had come to inspect production and visit the people.

Comrade Pol Xa-Ruon, who was graceful and had solemn facial features, had quickly realized the traitorous nature of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang, rapidly organized forces, and took temporary refuge in Vietnam, awaiting a chance to oppose them.

Looking at the vast green rice fields, he said, "Takeo is a province with an important strategic position militarily and with regard to agricultural production. Even the spot on which you are now standing was during the Pol Pot period the rear-services base of the Eastern Region divisions which invaded Vietnam. Therefore, this area was thick with Chinese advisers -- military advisers, agricultural advisers, and administrative advisers.

The Chinese advisers drove automobiles bearing the Beijing label. When they arrived at a village within a few days that village would become a mass grave.

After the liberation the revolutionary administration immediately began to overcome the aftereffects of the genocidal regime, rapidly stabilized living conditions, and mobilized the people to defend the administration and restore the economy, especially agricultural production.

Takeo, with a population of 467,000 and 221,000 cultivated hectares, in 1979 planted 85,400 hectares of 10th month rice, 4,300 hectares of summer-fall rice that was sowed immediately after the liberation, and 7,100 hectares of subsidiary food crops, principally corn and the various kinds of vegetables and legumes. The average rice yield is 1.2 tons per hectare. With regard to corn, many villages, such as Kampen, Kuplech, and Ta Ol in Kirivong District, Kokpo, Strach, and Sombua in Treng District, Samrong and Krapau in Trau Coc District, etc., attained yields of more than 2.2 tons per hectare.

The chairman continued, "This year Takeo is going all-out to increase its 10th month rice area to 150,000 hectares. We have three strengths with which to develop agriculture: 10th month rice, fishing, and palm sugar. If they are promoted to the proper degree, Takeo will be assured of having sufficient foodstuffs and can help the provinces which are encountering even greater difficulties. We have prepared boats, nets, engines, and pumps, and this season are going all-out to catch about 9,000 tons of fish. With regard to sugar palms, with good organization we can obtain 10,000 tons of sugar. Takeo is a delta province without jungles to provide bamboo with which to make ladders and containers for the sugar palm sap. In order to overcome that difficulty, we are trading Kompong Cham 15 tons of seed rice for 500,000 bamboo tubes. Some of the kettles used to cook sugar will be mobilized from among the people, and some will be provided by our brother province, An Giang."

On the advice of Comrade Pol Xa-Ruon, we went to Treng District, which had the best production movement in the province. The district had just had the honor of receiving a visit by Vice-Premier went out to the fields to speak with the peasants, wade in the paddies, and inspect each cluster of rice. When he visited the Krapro pumping station he congratulated the workers for having salvaged all the machine parts thrown away by the Pol Pot gang, and for quickly restoring six pumping machines, thus promptly helping the peasants irrigate the 10th month rice crop.

Fourteen villages in the district have set up 856 production solidarity teams, which included 27,994 hectares of cultivated land and 33,849 workers out of a total of 83,578 people.

Dun Ta, in charge of agriculture in the district, said that "In comparison to many places in the province, Treng District has the most rapid rate of 10th month rice planting, and has planted 12,600 hectares. Because we are self-sufficient in draft power (the district has 13,210 oxen and 1,728 water buffaloes), we can work the soil rather rapidly. With regard to seed rice and fertilizer, we are helped by Vietnam. The peasants in our district are certain to repulse hunger beginning with this season. Furthermore, the district has planted 376 hectares of subsidiary food crops. Coc Po Village has replanted 5 hectares of mulberry in order to restore the traditional silk trade.

"A great difficulty during the recent period has been that the rice has been seriously damaged by insects and mice. Since we lacked insecticides we mobilized the peasants to catch insects and kill mice night and day. Due to a combination of many measures, the rice in the area has been protected and is developing uniformly."

We waded in the paddies. The new rice was knee-high but was shiny and had many branches. The entire area was covered with green rice and straight rows of sugar palms.

The village secretary, Sunrany, invited his guests to take a noontime break in a hamlet. Passing along the edge of a rice paddy, we arrived at a small hamlet that was part of Coc Po Village. From afar we could hear the sound of firewood being sawed. Young children dived splashingly into the canal which ran past the houses. Along the banks of the canal there were such green strawberries. Young girls were busily washing vegetables and rinsing rice, preparing to cook the noon meal. We entered a newly erected house, the beams and floor of which still had the fresh green color of sugar palms. The proprietor, Mrs. Nady, 60 years old, warmly greeted her guests. When she was asked about her new life after the liberation, she said emotionally, "The Front saved us. It is concerned with everything from rice, potatoes, and clothing to new houses for the people. The scenes of people bending over doing hard labor under bayonets are gone forever. Now the people of the hamlet are free to travel, and the houses in the hamlet are full of laughter.

During the past several years, in addition to stimulating production: people were free to do as much as they could. The Front also set up production solidarity teams so that the people could assist one another. The Front does not collect tax rice. Anyone who could climb the sugar palm trees and make sugar an exchange it with the Front for rice."

"The people are very good," continued comrade Sunrany. "During the recent rice season, after the rice was harvested the people calculated how much they would need and offered the remainder to the village. There was no way we could refuse. "If you refuse, that won't be the end of it. The people say that the revolution was carried out for the people, so when difficulties are encountered the people must help the revolution." So we had to accept it. The rice they gave amounted to more than three tons. The village gave it to the province's school for orphans.

Most moved of all was perhaps comrade Suca, a reporter-photographer for SPK, when he saw the results of his labor. The photographs he took of the new life in Sien Riep, Pursat, and Battambang which were printed in the newspapers "Kampuchea" and "Revolutionary Army" had been pasted on the wall of the house by Mrs. Nady's daughter.

Mrs. Nady was very pleased and urged her daughter to go into the room when Suca suggested that she sit at the silk-spinning wheel. "You must look nice, daughter, so that the Pol Pot bandits will know that this land which is dyed with the blood of your father and of your older sisters and brothers, a land in which they forced us to work like buffaloes and horses, has come to life again, and so that the country-stealing troops and the country-selling clique will understand that under the new regime the people can grow mulberry, raise silkworms, and weave cloth with which to make dresses and sarongs." In the fields there was green rice. In the village the children went to school, old people attended Buddhist services, young men and women were free to court one another, and when the rice crop ripened the hamlets of Coc Po Village could organize festivals.

From east to west and from north to south, there was everywhere the color of green rice. The whole nation was happy during the labor festival days! While we were there we noted another symbol of the new way of life. Men Khon, the Minister of Agriculture, announced that during this year's 10th month season Kampuchea planted 1.2 million hectares of rice, 400,000 hectares more than during the first rice season. That statistic was itself a strength.

II. An Industry is Reborn

We traveled by motorboat on the Tonle Sap River. It was during the flood season, so the closer we came to the "four faces" segment of the river, where the river branches converged, the swifter the current became. The light boat skimmed along the surface of the water.

Conrade Barua, director of the Combined Department of the Ministry of Industry, who had technical degrees in chemistry and mechanics, had invited us to the river. He tested the motor of a boat that had just been restored by the cadres and workers of the Phnom Penh machine shop. The boat was intended to be used to transport mail and periodicals from Lake Tonle Sap to Puoc Xot. It was the 35th boat that the machine shop had restored!

From the Tonle Sap River we could see glimmering Phnom Penh, with the palace beside attractive houses. On the broad street in front of the royal palace. The passengers in one remained seated while the driver, covered with oil and grease, tested the grinding brakes. Along the river there was a large number of garages, printing shops, rice mills, ship and boat repair shops, water plants, power plants, machine shops, tobacco factories, textile mills, distilleries, etc., which stretched for 10 miles, from the national opera house to the market at the "prampi" kilometer marker.

Brother Ba Ron steered the boat as he spoke with us, "I never expected that it would come to this. After nearly 4 years of destruction the Pol Pot gang left as a 'souvenir' for our people these imposing factories." Only a victim of the genocidal regime could realize how painful it was.

"After 7 January, the matter of food, clothing, and housing for a people who had been maltreated was extremely necessary and urgent. But we had nothing at all: the factories were empty and not many technical cadres and workers survived, but the tasks were very difficult and urgent. It was also necessary to rapidly produce goods. We called in all the technicians and workers who had just returned, and concentrated their efforts on restoring the key factories.

After 15 days, Phnom Penh had electricity, and 5 days after that it had water. Then the rice mills, the textile mills, the printing shops, the paper mills, and the soft drink plants were restored one after the other. The goods that were produced were turned over immediately to the work teams so that they could issue them to people who were passing through the capital on their way returning to their home villages. Nearly 1 million people received such goods.

As he looked at the white-blossomed flowers which had been planted on an island in Prach Liep Village, he said, "In the past, Kampuchea had 600 technicians in the various sectors, but now there are only about 60. Despite that fact, we have been able to restore 94 out of a total of 125 factories.

Having docked the boat at a river wharf, he took us to visit the Rusaykeo textile mill, the largest in Kampuchea. As we walked toward it from the river we could see a square, light-green factory. The sound of the humming motors blended with the sound of singing coming from the loudspeaker system of the city broadcasting station. Shaking our hands, the director, Kim Sing Chi, happily said that "The clean-up work alone took a month. We picked up every screw and lengths of electrical wire. We cleaned and oiled the machinery, assembled the workers, resolved difficulties regarding their living conditions, and rapidly brought the mill into operation. On 9 April 1979 the factory produced its first cloth. As of April of this year the mill had produced more than 1 million meters of cloth, which was made into towels, kerchiefs, underwear, pants, shirts, blankets, etc."

VIETNAMESE REGIMENT SAID TO HELP KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 5 Dec 80 p 3

[Article by Tran Dinh Ba: "Resolute Toward Enemies, Loyal Toward Friends"]

[Text] During the time they were fighting along the southwestern border, and during nearly 2 years of fulfilling their international duty in Kampuchea, the cadres and men of the Long Lan Regiment achieved many outstanding accomplishments and was recognized as a unit which did a good job of fulfilling the five objectives of the major campaign.

Strictly carrying out all orders:

Throughout the period it was fighting to defend our southwestern border, the Song Lan infantry regiment had to move along a long border to fight more than 1,000 large and small battles. During some battles it moved its forces while fighting the enemy. Once, as soon as the troops put on their back packs they had to set out to attack the enemy. During many battles they had to fight under extremely difficult, complicated circumstances, but the cadres and men of the Song Lan infantry regiment always strictly carried out their orders.

The victories of the Song Lan infantry regiment, along with the other continuous victories by our soldiers and people all along the southwestern border, created favorable conditions for the people and revolutionary forces of Kampuchea to arise and overthrow the genocidal regime of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary.

After the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique was overthrown by the people and revolutionary forces of Kampuchea, groups of their remnant troops, which their Beijing masters and other reactionaries fed and supplied with weapons and ammunition hid out in the mountains and jungles and in Thailand, and every day committed new crimes.

Strictly carrying out the orders of the upper echelon, in accordance with the requirements of the Revolutionary Council and people of Kampuchea, the Song Lan infantry regiment, along with many other units, continued to shoulder an extremely difficult but very glorious international duty: along with friendly military forces, completely eliminating the Pol Pot bandits and contributing to defending the people and administration of a friendly nation.

The cadres and men of the Song Lam regiment once again enthusiastically set out. From Svay Rieng, Phnom Penh, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, Pursat, and Battambang, to Ta Sanh, Saalep, etc., the units of the Song Lam regiment, alongside friendly military forces, fought to wipe out the Pol Pot remnant troops and liberated 179,000 people from their control.

Faithful to the people of a friendly nation:

The cadres and men of the Song Lam regiment, fulfilling their international duty in our friends' country, won the profound sympathy and solid confidence of the people, governmental administration, and armed forces of Kampuchea. By their priceless sacrifices and their noble deeds, the cadres and men of the Song Lam regiment contributed to further embellishing the image of Uncle Ho's troops in a friendly nation.

During a ceremony celebrating Vietnam's National Day organized by the Song Lam regiment where it was stationed in Khvang District, Pursat Province, on behalf of the local people and governmental administration comrade Tien Len, chairman of the district party committee, emotionally said, "We thank President Ho Chi Minh for having sent here a resolute, brave army to save the people of Kampuchea from the specter of genocide. We will always be grateful to you." Mrs. Puaon, 75 years old, was rescued from the enemy by comrade Kieu Xuan Thuy, a member of a militia company, who carried her on his back 15 kilometers, across streams and through jungles, to safety, said emotionally, "Even when Kampuchea has no more sugar palm trees, the people of Kampuchea will always be grateful to the Vietnamese troops for having saved their lives."

Fighting under difficult circumstances and far from rear area supplies, the cadres and men of the Song Lam regiment never regretted that they often had to go hungry and wear tattered clothing. Some days they ate only one meal, so that they could save rice in order to help the Kampuchean people. Many wounded and ill soldiers volunteered to share their medicine with the people of Kampuchea. Thanks to that medicine, the medical corpsmen of the Song Lam regiment helped the Kampuchean people and successfully treated 1,887 people who were "more dead than alive." And thanks to the food saved by the entire unit, the rear services unit of the Song Lam regiment had 15,476 kilos of rice to give to the people in the area in which the unit was stationed.

During the time it was fighting in Kampuchea, the cadres and men of the Song Lam regiment also exerted notable effort in helping the Kampuchean people return to their home areas and stabilize production and all other aspects of life. They made 216 trips with trucks to take people back to their home areas, built eight irrigation projects, worked 19,850 days in plowing and in transplanting rice seedling, and built 725 houses, five village headquarters, a provincial hospital, five district clinics, 11 village districts, and 144 classrooms for 10,038 pupils, and made 550 desks and chairs for the children.

There is also a youth camp for 235 children who were orphaned by the Pol Pot-Jeng Sary gang and who were brought to the orphanage by the regiment's units, which ran across them in the jungle during sweeping operations to mop up the enemy troops. The cadres and men of the Song Lam regiment set aside sugar, mild, rice, clothing, and medicine for the children. After a period of good care, the children regained

their health. When the unit changed its area of operations, the children were entrusted to the local governmental administration. The farewell was very moving; the children surrounded the troops, for they didn't want them to go away. Looking at the shirts of the Vietnamese troops, which were wet with the children's tears, the head of the Battambang women's association could not hold back her tears. After she regained her composure she bid farewell: "You Vietnamese troops have saved the children. The administration and people of Battambang have the responsibility of continuing to raise them. They are our precious seeds, and are also the most precious seeds of Vietnamese-Kampuchean friendship. Vietnam and Kampuchea forever!"

At that moment, 235 orphans stood up and shouted, "Vietnam and Kampuchea forever!"

Those sincere words of the 235 orphans will always follow the cadres and men of the Song Lam infantry regiment.

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TURKISH CONSUL GENERAL, BODYGUARD ASSASSINATED IN SYDNEY

Foreign Killers Speculation

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 18 Dec 80 p 1

[Article by Roger Collier, Paul Molloy and Susan Molloy]

[Excerpts] The killers of the Turkish Consul-General and his bodyguard at Dover Heights yesterday may have been special "hit" men flown into Australia to carry out the assassination, police believe.

Detectives last night began checking overseas arrival lists at airports throughout the country.

The Consul-General, Mr Sarik Ariyak, 50, and Mr Engin Sever, 28, were shot dead in their cars in what police described as a "carefully planned and professional" murder.

As Mr Ariyak and Mr Sever were leaving the Ariyaks' brick home in quiet, suburban Portland Street, the assassins struck.

They were on a motorcycle, and both wore full-face motorcycle helmets. While one kept the motorcycle going, the other leaped off the pillion seat and fired about a dozen shots from a machine pistol at the two men, sitting in separate cars.

The murders done, the gunman got back on the pillion seat and the two men rode off.

Mrs Ariyak had been watching, stunned, from the driveway of her home.

Almost immediately after the killing, a woman caller telephoned the SYDNEY SUN.

Speaking in a heavily accented voice she said: "I have been told to give you this message.

"I am speaking on behalf of the Justice Commando's of Armenian Genocide. [as published]

"The attacks are in the retaliation for the injustice done to the Armenians by Turkey in 1915.

"We are the authors of the abomination act.

"We have no connection at all with the so-called Armenian Secret Army.

"Turks and Turkish institutions are our targets."

Police last night were treating the call seriously and began interviewing dozens of people in the Turkish and Armenian communities in Sydney.

A police spokesman said Special Branch detectives were "familiar" with the terrorist group.

International police, who were alerted to the assassination by Australian authorities, have supplied additional information about the activities of the terrorist group and scores of anti-Turkish groups have been investigated.

Scientific Squad detectives were conducting forensic tests on two motorcycles located in the Bondi area last night.

Detectives went to an address in Birrell Street, Bondi, at 9 pm following information that the motorcycle used by the murderers was parked outside a house.

In Sydney, a team of about 30 detectives under Detective-Inspector Gordon Beardmore, of Maroubra district, and Detective-Sergeant Clive MacLachlin of the CIB Homicide Squad were interviewing witnesses and residents.

Detectives from Waverley, Maroubra, Rose Bay and Bondi Police Stations, Homicide Squad detectives and Special Branch detectives were called into the case.

It is the largest NSW police operation since the investigation into the murder of Mr Justice Opas at Woollahra earlier this year.

As the Australian Government took immediate measures to increase security at official Turkish offices in Canberra and around Australia, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Street, said every resource available to the Government would be used in the hunt for the assassins.

He said he had conveyed the Government's deep regret over the incident personally to the Turkish Ambassador, Mr Hassan Uner, and to the Turkish Government in Ankara.

"I am sure that all Australians will be appalled at this criminal act," Mr Street said.

"Every resource will be employed to find and bring those responsible to justice."

The Turkish Embassy described the assassination as an outrage against the international community. A spokesman said it was "an unspeakable violation of international rules and elementary morality."

The NSW Premier, Mr Wran, said he was "shocked and appalled."

Police Descriptions

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 18 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Police have issued these descriptions of the assassins of Mr Sarik Ariyak:

The Gunman: 168 cm (5ft 6in) tall, wearing a full-face, white crash helmet, a grey knee-length coat and fawn trousers. He was wearing glasses under the helmet.

The Motorcycle Rider: 175 cm (5ft 9in) tall, wearing dark blue clothing, probably overalls, and a white, full-face crash helmet. He also had a heavy, brass motorcycle chain draped across his shoulders and chest.

Killers' Vigil

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 18 Dec 80 p 2

[Text]

The killers of Mr Sirak Ariyak and Mr Engin Sever kept a vigil yesterday outside the consul's home.

A senior detective leading the investigation said last night that the two men wearing motor cycle helmets were seen by residents in the street as early as 8 am.

"One resident saw them sitting on the bike at the top of Portland Street facing the home of Mr Ariyak," the detective said.

"They were also seen in a bus shelter further down the road from the house," he said.

Detectives canvassed the area following the shooting at 9.45 am and gained important leads on the movements of the two men during the morning.

They also believe the two men may have been in Portland Street on Tuesday night setting up the murders.

The detectives appealed to anyone who may have noticed the men to come forward and give information.

The detective also said police had carried out intensive interviews with staff of the consulate in Sydney about groups with anti-Turkish sympathies who could have been involved.

"Following the telephone calls to the press from the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide group, we must treat the murders as politically motivated," he said.

"Although little is known about this group at present, every effort is being made to learn about their activities in Sydney.

"We have also made strict checks on airports, railway stations and shipping ports for

arrivals of people who could have been connected with the crime."

The Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide first surfaced in October, 1975, when they claimed responsibility for killing the Turkish Ambassador in Vienna.

Since then Armenian guerrillas have claimed about a dozen Turkish victims, including ambassadors in France and the Vatican, senior diplomats and their families.

A spokesman for the Melbourne Turkish Consulate confirmed last night that it was aware of the terrorist group.

Mr Sermet Atacanli said the death of Mr Ariyak had sparked off fears in Melbourne.

"We now feel very much threatened after hearing that they will strike again."

The possibility of further assassinations was spelled out by a woman with a heavily accented voice who telephoned Australian Associated Press yesterday after the killings.

Coldly and calmly she identified herself as a member the Justice Commandos of Armenian Genocide and said: "We will strike again."

The police attach major importance to the statement—so much so that security was stepped up in Melbourne, but it was not revealed to what extent.

In Canberra, at least half a dozen armed police were stationed in the grounds of the Turkish Embassy in Mugga Way in the exclusive Red Hill district.

Detectives had also gone inside the embassy, where staff were spending most of their time answering telephone calls.

In Brisbane, Federal police stepped up security patrols although there is no Turkish representative in the city.

But Superintendent Bob Gillespie said that the increased patrols were at other consulates.

Patrols were also being made at the major airports in Queensland.

Meanwhile in Sydney, the chairman of the Armenian Church Council, Mr James Allis, said he doubted the authenticity of the terrorists who claimed responsibility for the killing.

Mr Allis said the same group claimed the responsibility for killing the son of a Turkish Ambassador in Holland.

The man charged with the murder, however, turned out

to be a Palestinian living in America.

Mr Allis knew of no political Armenian group in Australia.

Meanwhile, the Turkish community in New South Wales issued a statement which read:

"The beastly and inhuman act aimed at the Turkish State and nation in the person of Mr Sarik Artyak and his bodyguard, Mr Engin Sever, has caused immeasurable disgust and infuriation not only within the Turkish community but with any person who claims to be a human being.

"We make a great effort to contain our anger and expect and urge both Federal

and State police to bring the culprits to justice.

"We believe that the condemnation by the Australian public of these unwarranted and unjustifiable murders will help to bring about international acknowledgement of the gravity of the inhuman and fanatical acts of these deranged criminals and their supporters."

In Portland Street, neighbours were stunned by the murders last night.

Early yesterday morning they ran from their homes into the street as gunfire and the sound of a crashing car broke the silence.

One of the first on the scene was 17-year-old Tony Sloman.

Tony said he was awakened by the sound of the car crashing into the garden wall of his home.

He said he raced outside to find the bodyguard, Mr Sever, slumped over the wheel of the smashed vehicle with blood streaming from gunshot wounds in his head.

Tony said police arrived at the scene immediately after the assassination and sealed off the area.

Mr Sever died soon after arrival at St Vincent's Hospital.

Assassination Timetable

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 18 Dec 80 p 2

[Text]

8.30 am — Two men seen at a bus shelter about 150 metres from the Artyak home in Portland Street, Dover Heights. 9.40 am — The bodyguard, Engin Sever, arrived to escort Mr Artyak to the Turkish consulate at Woodlawn. He parked a consular Mazda 323 across the road from the house.

9.45 am — Mr Artyak left the house, got into his own car and began to do a three-point turn. 9.46 am — Two men wearing full-face crash helmets approached the Mazda on a powerful, black motorcycle. The pillion passenger fired at Mr Sever, fatally wounding him.

The gunman then ran towards Mr Artyak's car and fired several shots through the car window, killing him. Neighbours said about 11 shots were fired.

9.47 am — The two men fled on the motorcycle up Portland Street towards Lancaster Street.

The two most recent major incidents in Australia aimed at diplomatic personnel and visiting overseas leaders were the Sydney Hilton bombing and the kidnapping of an Indian military adviser in Canberra.

Killers' Statement

Melbourne THE AGE in English 18 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] This is the text of a statement telephoned to the Sydney office of Australian Associated Press yesterday by a woman caller with a foreign accent:

"I have a very important message. Please don't interrupt. I am speaking on behalf of the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide.

"We have just shot the Turkish Consul in Sydney.

"The operation falls within the bounds of our revolutionary movement which started in 1975 with acts by our commandos in Vienna, Rome, Madrid, Paris and the Vatican. The attack was in retaliation for the injustices done to the Armenians by the Turks in 1915. We have no connection at all with the so-called Armenian Secret Army.

"Our attacks are aimed at Turkish diplomats and Turkish institutions. We will strike again. I repeat, we are the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide."

/The woman rang off immediately after reading the statement./ [in italics]

Antiterror Squads

Melbourne THE AGE in English 18 Dec 80 p 5

[Text]

CANBERRA — Australia is as well prepared as almost any nation in the world to deal with terrorist assault on a foreign embassy or government office.

But no amount of preparation could cope with the sudden ambush of the Turkish envoy in Sydney yesterday.

Twenty-four hours a day specially trained groups of men and women are on alert in every capital in case of a prolonged assault.

They are part of each State's own anti-terrorist force. They are specialists in psychology, strategy and medicine as well as in commando-style anti-terrorist work. Every day they rehearse ways of breaking the morale and fighting capacity of terrorists.

They are separate from the army's crack Special Air Service Regiment and the secrecy-shrouded high-risk terrorist squad formed by the Defence Department last year to concentrate on

sharp-shooting and bomb disposal.

While these forces are manned and run by the States they are coordinated by the ultra-secret elite group, the Protective Service Co-ordination Centre in Canberra.

This was set up last year on the recommendation of Mr Justice Hope who inquired into Australia's security services. It is headed by the head of the Federal police force, Sir Colin Woods.

Its staff includes intelligence experts, doctors, communications experts and Foreign Affairs officials, who would call the shots during an attack in any of the States.

Government officials are confident the forces are as good as any in the world but mercifully that claim has not been put to the test.

But yesterday's killings illustrate, it is impossible to predict which people from which foreign missions might be attacked.

Reward Offer

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 19 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Sydney.--The Federal and New South Wales Governments yesterday offered a joint \$100,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers of the Turkish Consul-General and his bodyguard on Wednesday.

The first police breakthrough in the case came yesterday when members of the 50-man team working on the assassination recovered the killer's stolen Honda 500cc motor-cycle.

Fingerprints found on the motorcycle have been sent to police around the world.

The motorcycle had been dumped in a secluded lane in Rose Bay, only 1km from consul-general Faruk Ariyak's home in Dover Heights.

Homicide detectives said yesterday it had been stolen eight days ago.

A gold-painted bike chain found with the abandoned motorcycle is giving police hope. The heavy 1.2 metre security chain was lying near the bike.

A detective working on the case said last night: "The chain is a distinctive color and almost new, so it may provide an important lead if we find out who bought it and when."

Divers attached to the water police scoured the harbour off Rose Bay yesterday in the hope of finding the gun used by the assassins. They found nothing.

Police believe the killers are international members of a terrorist group,

Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide, which has claimed responsibility for the slaying.

The "commandos" were responsible for five similar assassinations in Europe since 1978, and police have known of their existence in Australia for some time.

Police believe the assassins fled the country on Wednesday.

Rival groups in the Turkish and Armenian communities have blamed an assortment of Turkish, Kurdish and Armenian groups.

A member of the Turkish-Islamic Association threatened yesterday that 10 Armenians would be killed in retribution for the death of Mr Ariyak.

Archbishop Kahanjian, of the Armenian Church in Sydney, said, left-wing Islamic terrorist groups had been responsible for attacks on Turkish envoys around the world.

Left-wing leaders in Sydney's Turkish community immediately accused

the Archbishop of trying to inflame relations between Left and Right-wing Turks.

In Brisbane yesterday, the Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, called, on the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, to act urgently to stamp out terrorism in Australia.

The Queensland Government was ready to back any strong anti-terrorist stand, he said.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said: "As a nation we must act now. The signs are clear. There was the Sydney Hilton bombing, the Yeppoon tourist project sabotage and now Australia's first political assassination."

Victoria has established a special anti-terrorist police unit.

New overseas ideas and techniques for combatting political and criminal terrorism will be included in the men's training program.

Investigation Continues

Melbourne THE AGE in English 20 Dec 80 p 3

[Article by Dierdre Macken and David Broadbent]

[Excerpt]

Foreign Affairs officials and Federal police officials yesterday denied that Australia had been told several months ago that Mr Ariyak would be a target of anti-Turkish terrorists. The officials said that they know that Turkish diplomats were at risk but had no reason to suspect that Mr Ariyak was a specific target.

Police investigating the assassination have contacted international security organisations to determine whether the type of gun they believe was used is a common weapon for professional terrorists.

Police are concentrating their efforts on two clues — the motorcycle used in the murder and the bullets. Although they have not been able to determine the make of the gun, they believe it was a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun.

The bullets, of a World War II vintage, were made in Denmark, but could have been bought either in Australia or overseas. Police have sought advice from overseas on the type of guns which have been used in similar attacks in other countries.

Another lead emerged yesterday morning when police dis-

covered that the motorcycle used by the assassins had been repainted after its theft.

The 500 cc Honda was stolen 10 days before and when police found it on Thursday its plates had been changed and the original bronze paint was repainted black.

Detectives hope that the black paint and a heavy gold chain found lying near the abandoned bike were bought at the same store.

The distributor of the bike chain has been found and police are keen to question retailers who may remember selling the chain and paint recently.

New Antiterror Squad

Melbourne THE AGE in English 19 Dec 80 p 1

[Article by Roy Eccleston, chief police reporter]

[Text]

An anti-terrorist squad of 200 picked police is being built up within the Victoria Police.

The Chief Commissioner of Police, Mr S. I. Miller, said yesterday that the new protective security group would counter "the threat of terrorism in its various forms".

The first specialised anti-terrorist squad in any Australian State police force, it is expected to cost more than \$5 million a year to operate.

Mr Miller told senior officers on Wednesday morning that he wanted the squad to start immediately. Thirty minutes later, he was told that the Turkish Consul-General in Sydney, Mr Sarik Ariyak, and his bodyguard, had been murdered by gunmen.

Members of the protective security group were sent immediately to the Turkish Consulate in Melbourne. They are now protecting members of the Turkish community and other ethnic groups in Melbourne. "We are taking appropriate precautions for those who may be at risk," Mr Miller said.

The new squad is an amalgamation of the special operations group, the independent patrol group and the planned court security group. The head of the new squad, Superintendent H. V. Norton, formerly head of the special operations group, can call on 100 police at the moment.

Mr Miller said it could take several months to bring the squad to full strength. In an unusual move, open applications for inspectors, a senior sergeant, sergeants and senior constables have been called for. The recruiting notice, which appeared in the 'Police Gazette' issued last

night, also called for applications for the position of a chief inspector to be in charge of the special operations group.

Announcing the squad, Mr Miller said: "We can do no less to provide an effective response capability in the light of current developments in political and criminal terrorism." He said the squad was not intended to deal only with political terrorists. Its special training would be used in cases such as kidnappings, abductions and sieges.

Protective role

The squad's specific tasks will be to protect VIPs, consulates and the courts. Members of the squad will be trained in anti-terrorist techniques proved overseas.

Mr Miller has warned several times in the past three years that a terrorist attack could take place in Australia. Yesterday he said that he was aware "of the increasing risk of terrorist activity in Victoria". He was determined to do everything possible to prevent a terrorist killing in Victoria. "Every precaution will be taken."

The protective security group is expected to play a key role in the security arrangements at next year's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting and Royal tour, when about 3000 police will be on guard in Melbourne.

The new squad will be provided with information from the special branch, which investigates political threats, and from overseas police, including Interpol. Members of the squad will be rotated regularly between court security, special operations and work in the independent patrol group.

The squad was operational 30 minutes after it was officially formed. On Wednesday morning, Mr Miller phoned Superintendent Norton to tell him that the squad was ready to go. Mr Norton was making arrangements when the news of the assassination came from Sydney.

Members of the protective services group were rushed to the Turkish Consulate in Melbourne, and are still involved in the security of several members of the ethnic community.

The new squad will be a drain on manpower in the police for a, which is well below required strength. Mr Miller said more recruits would be needed.

Terror Squad Action

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 1 Jan 81 p 3

[Article by Tea Knez and Kevin Love]

[Text] The Federal Government yesterday took emergency action to protect Australia against terrorists and to repulse attacks on diplomats or key installations.

They had been delayed by political and bureaucratic log-jams but the recent double murder of the Turkish Consul-General in Sydney Mr Baki Arıyak and his bodyguard quickened government action.

As a bonus the moves will also give the country better protection against organised crime and drug trafficking.

Further measures are likely and government sources hinted yesterday that more permanent task forces would be set up incorporating State and Federal police, as in NSW.

In view of the political murders two weeks ago, however, some sources yesterday ventured dire predictions about the Government's failure to allow similar task forces against terrorism.

But the urgency of the moves confirms the growing belief that remoteness no longer guarantees Australia immunity from terror.

To deter overseas forays into Australia, the Government will increase the number of Federal policemen who can match terrorists such as those who claimed credit for killing Mr Arıyak and his bodyguard, Mr Sever Engin.

To do this, the Government will halve the Federal Police Force's protective services division and create a pool of 750 officers for training in anti-terrorism, as well as crime and drug trafficking.

All of them are expected to be in the firing line at airports, embassies, consulates or defence installations, but intense training and refresher courses will prepare them for any contingency.

The Minister for Administrative Services, Mr Newman, promised to "slash red tape" in order to create a readier Federal Police Force and he claims to have done it.

He said yesterday: "There is a real sense of urgency about this."

"In this country we have got to face the fact that there is a

very real problem with organised crime."

Drug trafficking is a huge problem. And of course we have seen recently in Sydney that political assassination has reached Australia.

Mr Newman explained that the 750 federal policemen would be upgraded and eligible for special training.

SUBVERSION

There would be some additional recruiting, but otherwise the changes would be made within government staff ceilings.

"It's a major reclassification right through the ranks from superintendent down to constable," Mr Newman said.

It will give the commissioner more experienced policemen who, for example, could be on guard at Parliament House one day and the Russian Embassy the next.

"And in either case the policeman will be capable of coping with any contingency that arises."

Mr Newman said divisional training officers would also be appointed to deal with the additional 750 duty policemen.

In Melbourne yesterday a security expert, Mr Bob Browning, said private industry was "entitled to receive regular assessments from the Federal Government of terrorism in Australia."

In a paper delivered to a conference of the Victorian Security Institute in Melbourne, he said that many people in the security business do not know the fundamentals of counter-terrorist procedures.

He recently entered the private security consultancy field after 10 years as an officer with the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

While events such as the assassination of the Turkish Consul-General in Sydney made headlines around the world, the fact remains that the great majority of terrorist attacks are aimed at private industry and businessmen — the Woolworths and Yeggon

bombings demonstrating the point horrifically.

Mr Browning said in his paper — Terrorism And Subversive Protection — that trends in terrorism overseas indicate increased "unarmed subversion" directed against multinational companies, nuclear installations, electricity generators and companies accused of offending against the environment.

He said there was "considerable indiscipline" in Australia's approach to coping with terrorism.

Sometimes individuals within official agencies pronounce with an authority and capacity they do not possess," he said.

Mr Browning said an inherent difficulty was the fact that ASIO had a statutory responsibility to assess politically motivated violence, but in fact ASIO did not address itself to the public or private security sector.

"The onus is on the Federal Government, having received official threat assessments, to give what guidance it believes necessary to private industry," he said.

"Perhaps it may be that without adequate reminders and even lobbying Government is not adequately aware of private industry needs in this respect."

Mr Browning said general guidelines as to immediacy, the level and the nature of possible terrorism could be adequately communicated without breaching secret sources.

Australia's history showed there had been some ethnic terrorism in recent years concerning Croats. It had not been directed against Australian targets but Yugoslav targets here.

Mr Browning said there was no doubt the Russians train terrorists — at least to act as agents within terrorist organisations of interest to them.

They may not be used for other purposes but obviously are available sleepers if the Soviets wish to influence the areas of operations of terrorist organisations.

Ethnic Violence in Sydney

Melbourne THE AGE in English 18 Dec 80 p 4

[Text] Sydney.—Yesterday's assassination, while the most violent, is just another of a succession of politically inspired attacks among Sydney's ethnic communities in recent months.

Last month, NSW Special Branch detectives began investigating a series of attacks and threats on members of the ethnic Press which stemmed from political faction fighting in the Arab-speaking community.

Some Arab-speaking journalists had been kidnapped and stabbed and their lives and those of their families threatened after splits over the Iran-Iraq war.

All five Arabic newspapers in Australia have blamed a Left-wing underground group called the Syrian National Socialist Party for the violence, which has been mainly in the western suburbs. The party has denied the allegations.

But only this week a Lebanese man was bashed as he and his wife were returning home from a restaurant. He said 12 men smashed the windows of his car. The man claims he was beaten about the face by fellow members of the party because he had criticised the leader, Dr Haydan Haj-Ismail's violent approach within the Lebanese community.

Earlier this year the federal police were called in to examine four letters purporting to be from the Red Brigade terrorist organisation which had been sent to several Italian organisations in Sydney.

The letters, typed in Italian, were hand delivered to the Italian Consul-General in Sydney and to two Italian newspapers. They threatened violence if celebrations were held to mark Italian National Day on 2 June.

Police and Italian community leaders doubted that the letters came from the Red Brigade.

The editor of another ethnic newspaper recently found a freshly cut head of a goat in the driveway of his Hunters Hill home. The gesture was a warning that violence would follow.

Cold Trail

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 3 Jan 81 p 4

[Article by Malcolm Brown and Graham Williams]

[Text] A burst of machine-pistol fire in Portland Street, Dover Heights, at 9.45 am on December 17 killed a Turkish diplomat and his bodyguard and left the NSW police with a series of riddles.

The dead were one of the most popular Turkish diplomats to live in Sydney, Mr Sirak Ariyak, 50, and his bodyguard, Mr Engin Sever, 28.

Two weeks of intensive investigation followed, but detectives met little more than glum astonishment in the Turkish community.

The killers, who had been seen in the Portland Street area between 7.30 and 9.30 am on December 17, had vanished.

Bizarre, taunting clues turned up, like a scrawled message on a toilet door at Ansett Airlines City terminal.

Police received a telephone call saying the Greek Cypriots were responsible.

A tin of black paint and overalls were collected during raids on Armenian houses and a shop last weekend.

But nothing came to a head. The heavy brass motor cycle chain found with the abandoned motor cycle, a source of so much hope early in the investigation, turned out to be of little use because there were so many of them.

The toilet door, obviously written on by someone with knowledge of Turkish, yielded no fingerprints.

This week, Detective-Sergeant Clive McLachlin, of Waverley police, appeared to be resigning himself to a long investigation.

The most solid clue was the telephone message that had been given to the SYDNEY SUN newspaper within 30 minutes of the shooting.

The caller, a woman speaking deliberately in an accented voice, had claimed responsibility on behalf of the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide, a group known overseas but not previously known in Australia.

She said in part: "We have just shot the Turkish Consul in Sydney. The operation falls within the bounds of our revolutionary movement which started in 1975 with acts by our commandos in Vienna, Rome, Madrid, Paris and the Vatican."

The attacks, she said, were in retaliation for injustices she alleged the Turks had done to the Armenians in 1915. Turkish diplomats and institutions were being attacked, and the group would strike again.

The message was carefully prepared, and it was delivered before news of the assassination had been circulated.

Several theories were put forward: that the message was an attempt to set up the Armenians, or that it was an attempt to divert attention from another group while they made their getaway.

The message on the toilet door claimed the assassination was the work of the Turkish Left, who were hostile to the Right-wing Government in Ankara.

It was a plausible theory. Mr Ariyak was assumed from the start to have been a rightist. "If he'd been leftish he'd never have been appointed," said Sergeant McLachlin. [as published]

But there was little hard evidence for the theory, beyond the toilet door, and even that evidence was suspect. "What won't you find written on a toilet door," Sergeant McLachlin said.

There had been several raids in the Armenian area of Sydney, around Willoughby, and one at Gosford, but there had been no valuable leads.

The shooting angered the Turkish community and brought threats of retaliation. Police moved in to the communities, helped by Special Branch information.

"But it's hard to get into the communities," Sergeant McLachlin said. "It's like the Italians and Yugoslavs. They will tell things to one another but you have to get it out of them.

"It is not as though we're up against a brick wall, but no one has claimed they know of anyone involved in the assassination."

Could the killers have been from overseas and have fled the country immediately after the shooting?

This ties in with overseas experience and with the theory that the assassination was part of a worldwide pattern of killings for which Armenian activists had claimed responsibility.

Sergeant McLachlin, a solid, genial and very effective policeman, does not particularly like the exotic theories. "To me, it does not twig with an overseas job," he said.

The assassination itself had been effective, but there were some doubts about the method.

Mr Sever, who had had a .38 calibre pistol on the seat beside him, had been killed by one shot through an arm into his heart, and it was usual for professional assassins to kill the bodyguard first.

However, Mr Ariyak had been splattered with gunfire.

"Does a true assassin have to use 10 shots?" Sergeant McLachlin asked. "An assassin might want to use as many shots as possible. But I am told he need only use one shot. That's what our ballistics experts say."

Was it not an assassination at all, but murder? It seemed unlikely. "If he ever had an enemy nobody knew about it," Sergeant McLachlin said. "He has never had an enemy as far as the consular staff know."

CSO: 4220

WRITER REVIEWS RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA, EGYPT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Jan 81 p 8

[Article by Inder Malhotra]

[Text] Cairo: Time was when India, Egypt and Yugoslavia presented to a strife-torn world a shining example of friendliness, cooperation and solidarity. Together, these three countries--under the leadership, respectively, of Jawaharlal Nehru, Gamal Abdel Nasser and Josip Broz Tito--founded the non-aligned movement earning collectively the flattering nickname, "The Golden Triangle of Non-alignment". Alas, all the glitter of this triangular partnership is gone. The close collaborators of yesteryears have drifted apart.

Mercifully, the Indo-Egyptian relations are not as strained as those between Egypt and Yugoslavia. But they are far from happy. The only redeeming feature of this unsatisfactory state of affairs is that, in spite of the government-to-government coolness, much warmth and goodwill for India persists in Egyptian society at almost all levels.

For instance, it is impossible for an Indian to move about in Cairo--a city distressingly like Calcutta in its dilapidation, filth, congestion, noise and confusion--without being greeted effusively by taxi drivers, museum guards, hotel attendants and so on. No difference in their */bonhomie/* [in italics] even when, in answer to their specific queries, one informs them that though a "Hindi" (Indian), one is not a Muslim. To talk to journalists, academics, civil servants and ministers is invariably an essay in nostalgia for the "good old days." Friendship between India and Egypt, one is told, pre-dates not only Nehru and Nasser but also Mahatma Gandhi and Zaglul Pasha and is indeed rooted in history and tradition.

Darkest

But such sentiment is about all that has survived of the past relationship. For the rest, the once flourishing political and economic relations have been virtually drained of their content.

There is no doubt that the darkest shadow on India-Egypt relations is cast by President Sadat's decision to seek bilateral peace with Israel under U.S. auspices and the consequent ire of almost the entire Arab world. But it will be wrong to pretend that this is the only reason for the loss of the old rapport.

In fact, the first discord between the two countries took place in 1976 when Camp David was at best an unsuspected gleam in Mr. Sadat's eye. The cause of the trouble was an embarrassing Egyptian request to India for the supply of spare parts for Mig-21 aircraft. The Soviet Union had suspended all military supplies to Egypt then and the Egyptian fleet of Migs was virtually grounded for want of spares. The Egyptian plight was desperate no doubt. But, as thoughtful Egyptians concede today, India could not have transferred to them Mig spare parts without Soviet concurrence. There was no reason, therefore, why the problem should not have been bypassed amicably. But it was allowed instead to leave behind a trail of bitterness that has not yet disappeared.

In the words of a high-level Egyptian source, New Delhi's refusal to give the spares could have been conveyed to Cairo "more tactfully and less tardily." What actually happened was that a curt reply to the Egyptian request was sent a good six months after it was first received. During this period all Egyptian reminders and queries were met with silence. The then chief of the Egyptian air force, Mr. Husny Mubarak, is now the vice-president of Egypt and the second most powerful man in that country.

No less painful to the Egyptians than the fiasco over the Mig spare parts were the goings-on at the Havana summit of the non-aligned in September 1979. It is a measure of the strong Egyptian feelings on the subject that during an hour-long conversation, Egypt's able and suave minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr. Boutros Ghali, declared, not once but thrice, that at Havana he had been "deceived" by the Indian delegation.

When reminded that India had taken the lead at Havana to prevent Egypt's expulsion from the non-aligned club, Dr. Ghali said his country was duly grateful for this gesture but it had been rendered meaningless by the earlier Indian decision to vote for the resolution condemning Egypt for signing a separate peace treaty with Israel. He contended that this was totally contrary to not only the high principles India steadfastly upheld at all previous gatherings of the non-aligned but also the assurances he had received from the then Indian foreign minister, Mr. S. N. Mishra.

It is an interesting law of international relations that when two countries are friendly with each other they allow many an irritant to pass unnoticed. But their sensitivity increases almost in direct proportion to the deterioration in their relations. The acrimonious negotiations between Air India and Egypt Air over the flights from one country to the other provide a telling instance in point. The roadblocks to agreement were largely technical. But their political fall-out has been immense. Though an agreement has been reached at last, it has yet to be implemented. And this by itself is causing fresh resentment.

Candid

Similarly the diminution in trade or the failure of the two countries so far to renew the agreement under which Egyptian nuclear scientists used to receive training at Trombay engenders misgivings and suspicions out of all proportion to the points at issue. The Egyptians are irked also by the fact that while Mr. Mubarak, Dr. Ghali and other Egyptian ministers have been to New Delhi in recent months--in Dr. Ghali's case more than once--no comparable Indian dignitary has yet set foot in Cairo.

With all this, however, Egyptian policy-makers and intellectuals are candid enough to admit that the blame for the present unhappy state of affairs cannot be placed on one side alone. The Nasserites, who are themselves critical of the policy of "going naked to Jerusalem", are understandably appreciative of India's present stance. But even those who consider the Camp David approach to be good for Egypt--and their number is quite large--concede that India cannot but side with those Arabs who are collectively both more numerous and better able to give India oil at concessional terms.

Even so, the Egyptian plea--voiced eloquently during an interview by General Kamal Hassan Ali, the vice-premier and foreign minister who was earlier chief of the army staff--is that grant strategy ought not to be sacrificed for temporary tactical advantage.

The point is well taken. For whatever the exigencies of the present circumstances, Egypt remains, in more ways than one, the pivot of West Asia. Nearly a third of the entire Arab population lives in Egypt. Cairo has been, is and will continue to be the most important centre of Arab culture and learning. Moreover--and this is vital from India's point of view--despite an undoubted increase in the influence of Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's commitment to secularism remains unshaken at a time when the region is being swept by the tide of religious revivalism.

Contacts

Circumstances may become more propitious for a review of Indian Policy towards Egypt if some of the Egyptian expectations about regional developments do actually materialise. Knowing that the Camp David process has run out of steam, thanks to Mr. Begin's intransigence over Jerusalem and Palestinian rights, Cairo is looking forward to a change of government in Tel Aviv during the forthcoming Israeli elections. Its hope is that a Labour government in Israel would be more sympathetic to the Palestinians' cause and this might remove the principal reason for estrangement between Egypt and the rest of the Arab world. Meanwhile the earlier Arab fears arising from Mr. Reagan's election as U.S. president, seem to have subsided following Mr. Husny Mubarak's visit to Washington.

It is also Cairo's calculation that the Arab world, at sixes and sevens since the Iraq-Iran war, would be more amenable to a rapprochement with Egypt now than could be deemed possible before September. Indeed, 1981 is already being described in the Egyptian capital as the "year of inter-Arab dialogue." In this connection, Egyptian officials proudly point to the fact that their country's expulsion from the Arab League has made no difference to the people-to-people Arab contacts. Moreover, they claim that representatives of various Arab governments as well as the PLO, have also been meeting Egyptian ministers secretly.

Presumably to allay the apprehensions of the non-aligned, President Sadat has substantially modified and restricted his earlier open-ended offer of military bases to the United States.

Whether all this would produce the desired results remains to be seen. But the future shape of inter-Arab and India-Egypt relations may start to become clear at the meeting of the non-aligned foreign ministers in New Delhi in February.

CSO: 4220

INFORMATION MINISTER ADDRESSES MEDIA CONVENTION

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Dec 80 p 9

(Text)

NEW DELHI, Dec. 28.

Mr. Vasant Sathu, Information and Broadcasting Minister, said today that media "moved in a wrong direction" leading to gossip and rumours whenever there was breakdown in communication between the sources of information and the people.

Inaugurating a debate on the 'role of media in a democratic set-up' at a three-day national convention here, he said the recent examples of communal violence in various parts of the country and the role of the press bore ample testimony to such misdirected flow of communication among people and between people and the Government.

Mr. Sathu recalled the findings of a Presidential commission in the U.S. about 12 years ago, where investigation into the causes of increased incidents of violence involving minorities revealed that there was breakdown of communication between the minority communities and the rest of the people.

The same was the case about the role of media concerning immigrants and the coloured population in Britain and a few other countries, he said.

Mr. Sathu posed the question: How much information should be given to the people and through what channels, so as to generate the maximum growth rate and ensure the wellbeing of the people?

Should there be any restraint on the functioning of the media at local, regional or national level, particularly when within a year or two, through the development of satellite information technology, the country would have direct broadcasting satellites?

To whom should such media address itself and what would be its ultimate responsibility?

The Minister did not answer the questions and only said there were some of the questions exercising the minds of not only the media men and social thinkers but of those concerned with the social welfare of the people.

The convention has been organised by the Delhi Union of Journalists, the Press Club, Press Institute of India and the Press Association.

India Should Lead: Delivering the keynote address on "India's role in the flow of news about the third world", Mr. D. R. Mankekar suggested that India, as leader of the third world, should take the initiative to create a new information order which would reverse it from the "stronghold" of the western media.

He said it was a pity that an influential section of the Indian press should be apathetic. If not hostile, to the third world's media movement and to the

non-aligned news pool. Even worse was that these critics should take their cue and arguments from the Western press, which was prejudicial against the non-aligned venture.

Mr. Mankekar said the apathy was not understandable in the face of self-evident advantages to India from close association with other non-aligned countries in the realm of information and communication.

Mr. Mankekar said the "monopolistic" Western news agencies could pay havoc with international events and political controversies. [as published]

About 75 per cent of the news that the four Western agencies--AP, UPI, Reuter and AFP--put out originated from and was about North America and Western Europe.

The remaining 25 per cent of the news, about the third world, which represented two-thirds of the world's population, was viewed through Western eyes and selected, written and edited to meet the markets of these news agencies in North America and Europe, he said.

Mr. N. R. Chandran, General Manager of the Press Trust of India, spoke of the need for leaders of the third world media too to correct their perspective about news concerning themselves alongside efforts to correct international imbalance.--PTI, UNI.

CSO: 4220

HOME MINISTER SPEAKS TO SECURITY FORCES IN JAMMU

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Dec 80 p 9

[Text] Jammu Tawi, Dec. 28.--The Union Home Minister, Mr Zail Singh, has called upon Indian security forces to be alert in view of dangers posed by Pakistan, which has been piling up modern arms and ammunition.

He told senior BSF officials and jawans separately and collectively here today, soon after his arrival from New Delhi, that "we do not want to wage war against any country, but at the same time we cannot remain complacent in view of the our neighbouring countries' war-like preparation".

Mr Zail Singh said Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India and, therefore, no Power would be allowed to create any trouble within or on its borders.

He praised the jawans and officials of Indian security forces, including the BSF, who despite heavy odds were guarding the border round the clock.

The jawans and officials had always defended their country's integrity, solidarity and sovereignty. Every Indian was confident that whenever occasion arose they would play the same role in defending the country.

Mr Zail Singh said that the Centre was fully informed of the day-to-day happenings and internal affairs of all States, particularly Jammu and Kashmir.

He said it was unfortunate that some of the political parties had begun exploiting and inciting students, farmers, the unemployed youth and Government servants to wage war against the Centre and were trying to create an impression that Mrs Gandhi's Government had failed to deliver the goods.

In reply to charges of growing corruption, maladministration, nepotism, lawlessness and victimization of Congress (I) workers by Sheikh Abdullah's Government and the ruling National Conference Party levelled by the State Congress (I) president, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, the former Speaker, Mr Malik Mohiuddin, the former Minister of State, Mian Bashir Ahmad, the Home Minister said the best way to bring an end to this state of affairs was to strengthen their party to face the challenges.

'REALITIES' OF FARAKKA NEGOTIATIONS EXAMINED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jan 81 p 8

[Article by Inder Malhotra]

[Text]

TO say that the latest round of ministerial talks between India and Bangladesh on the sharing of Ganga waters was 'inconclusive' — as the joint official release at the end of it did — is an easy proposition. The truth is that the protracted negotiations on this subject have been deadlocked so badly as to be in danger of being dead before long. The present divergence between the approaches of the two sides is so great that to look for a meeting ground between them is like expecting two parallel lines to meet.

The leader of the Indian delegation, Rao Birendra Singh, in fact said so at the start of the discussions without mincing his words. Indeed, if the Delhi talks have served any useful purpose at all it is that Dacca has been left in no doubt that the present position cannot go on indefinitely and that sincerity of both sides in wanting a just and lasting solution of a problem of vital concern to both is subject to proof.

Some of the difficulties that this country now faces in dealing with Bangladesh over flow of the Ganga waters below the Farakka barrage are a legacy of the era when that country formed part of Pakistan. But some others emanate directly from the ill-fated Farakka agreement of 1977 that the Janata government signed in pursuance of its own brand of 'good-neighbourliness'.

Mrs. Gandhi was critical of the agreement when it was signed. She voiced her criticism that the Janata has surrendered vital Indian interests even more forcefully in the manifesto of the Congress (I) for last year's Lok Sabha election. And she has repeated this criticism after coming back to power. In doing so, she is not scoring debating points against her political opponents but underlining some hard realities.

FOLLY

The folly of guaranteeing Bangladesh a fixed quantity of water during the lean season, regardless of the river's actual flow, for instance, has already hit this country very hard during the first drought since the agreement was signed. The frightening vision of the Calcutta port being choked to death by silt is dangerously close to materialising. The Janata and BJP leaders are only technically right in retorting that Mrs. Gandhi's previous government conceded to Bangladesh in 1974 an even more generous flow of water during the lean season. But they conveniently overlook that the 1974 agreement was a one-shot affair for a single year. The allocation of water was based on the anticipated overall flow during that year. A five-year agreement is a different matter.

In spite of all this, however, Mrs. Gandhi's government remains committed to honouring the 1977 agreement in letter and spirit. But ironically, this is being rendered difficult by Bangladesh, which benefits from the agreement. The reasons for this paradox are not far to seek.

The 1977 Farakka accord, signed

for a five-year period, has two distinct but inextricably inter-linked parts. The short-term part of the agreement spells out the respective shares of the two countries, month by month, for the five year period. The second part had provided that by November 1980, when the agreement was to have been reviewed, the two sides should work out a long term plan to augment the flow of the Ganga during the lean season, so that there is enough water in the river all the year round to meet the legitimate needs of both countries. The deadline has come and gone but the search for the long term solution has not even started.

On the contrary, Bangladesh has simply refused to look at the Indian proposal for building a link canal between the Brahmaputra and the Ganga so that the superabundant waters of the Brahmaputra that now flow wastefully into the sea can be diverted to the Ganga. Instead, Bangladesh insists on dragging a third country, Nepal, into a purely bilateral issue. It says that the Ganga's flow should be increased by building storage tanks on its tributaries in the Nepalese territory only. (At one stage, Bangladesh and Nepal, between them, tried to involve China also in the water sharing exercise. But, during a visit to Kathmandu, Mr. Deng Xiaoping gently put paid to the move.)

UNACCEPTABLE

The Bangladesh proposal is clearly unacceptable to this country. But, unlike Dacca, New Delhi does not refuse to examine it. Rao Birendra Singh has made it perfectly clear that either the two sides agree jointly to examine both the proposals so that their merits and demerits can be thrashed out or the agreement breaks down.

In fairness it must be recognised that not only does the Farakka issue affect the lives of millions of people of Bangladesh, it is also a highly emotive question in that country. Moreover, all the complexities arising from the close proximity between India and Bangladesh and the disparity in their sizes come into play whenever Dacca takes up the Ganga waters problem with Delhi. A curiously ambivalent negotiating strategy is the result. On the one hand, Bangladesh pleads for magnanimity and generosity by the bigger neighbour; on the other, it attempts, overtly and covertly, to internationalise the purely bilateral issue.

By now, however, it is clear that this ploy has been so over-worked that it has become self-defeating. For instance, New Delhi viewed with cool detachment the recent moves by Dacca to sponsor a South Asian summit where, along with other proposals for regional economic cooperation, the Farakka issue could also be aired. Rao Birendra Singh has bluntly rejected the Bangladeshi demand for a veto on projects in India for the utilisation of the Ganga waters. He has reminded Bangladesh that 90 per cent of the river flows through Indian territory, almost all its catchment area is in India and 250 million Indian

people, as against the total Bangladeshi population of 80 million, depend on it. There can therefore be not an iota of doubt about the preponderance of the Indian claim on the Ganga waters.

Yet another red herring that Bangladesh has tried to draw across the trail is the plea that feasibility reports about the long-term project to augment the Ganga flow should be prepared not by Indian engineers, whose expertise is acknowledged the world over, but by the World Bank. This too will not cut any ice as far as this country is concerned. Farakka may be the most talked of and even the most important issue between India and Bangladesh. But, unfortunately, it is not the only cause of differences between them. Even relatively small matters such as the physical demarcation of the border on the basis of principles agreed long ago have become a source of discord.

STALEMATE

A lot more serious is the continuing stalemate over the maritime boundary between the two countries. Two tiny islands that have appeared in the estuary of the Haribhanga border river have become a new bone of contention.

The fiasco over the large quantities of natural gas that Bangladesh itself offered to sell to India vividly mirrors the peculiarity of the India-Bangladesh relationship. The deal has failed to materialise because of an outcry by habitually anti-Indian elements that it would mortgage the precious resources of Bangladesh to India!

Similarly, the decision to resume the rail traffic between Calcutta and Agartala through Bangladeshi territory, which would have been greatly beneficial in both countries, has been shot down because some people in Bangladesh saw in it a threat to their country's security. Nor is such bizarre thinking an isolated instance of its kind. A Dacca newspaper wrote an angry editorial the other day alleging that the wily Indians are mysteriously attracting to the Indian side all the delectable Hilsa fish in the rivers flowing through both countries!

It follows that while the lack of an amicable settlement of the Farakka issue greatly influences the general tone of the India-Bangladesh relations the far from happy state of these relations also affects adversely the Farakka negotiations. The vicious circle appears complete unless Dacca decides to break it.

To his credit, President Ziaur Rahman has spoken out sharply — though not yet successfully — against those who are holding up the sale of natural gas to India. But even he has done nothing so far to counter the hard-liners who are needlessly exacerbating the differences over Farakka. He alone is in a position to give a constructive lead to both the public opinion and his negotiators. He does not have too much time to do so. The next round of ministerial talks on Farakka is only a month away. In less than two years the agreement signed by the Janata Government would have lapsed.

NORTHEAST COUNCIL SECRETARY'S STATUS RAISED

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jan 81 p 6

[Text]

The Union Cabinet has decided that the Secretary of the North-Eastern Council will have the rank of Secretary to the Government of India instead of the present status of Additional Secretary.

The decision has been taken to ensure that the rank of Secretary is commensurate with his vastly increased responsibilities.

The Council has been given a crucial role in the development of the north-eastern region and the range and dimension of its functions have increased greatly. The expenditure incurred by the Council has shot up from only Rs. 28 lakhs in the Fourth Plan period to Rs. 45 crores in the Fifth Plan and will be around Rs. 212 crores during the Sixth Plan.

The Council is entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the plans of the entire north-eastern region, formulating co-ordinated regional development plans, fixing priorities, reviewing programmes and implementation of projects and schemes, evaluating progress of expenditure and recommending to the Centre the financial assistance to be given to the States.

It also reviews from time to time the measures taken by the States in the region for maintenance of security and public order and recommends to their Governments further measures necessary in this regard.

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DETERIORATION IN BIHAR LAW ENFORCEMENT SEEN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Jan 81 p 8

[Article by N S Saksena]

[Text]

IT is a healthy sign that the nation's conscience has been stirred by the barbarism in Bhagalpur. But apparently the urban intelligentsia has not known what has been taking place in Bihar, especially in its rural areas. Belchi, Parasnigaha, Pipra and now Bhagalpur are not isolated incidents. They are symptomatic of a deep malaise which is reminiscent of the last days of the Mughal empire. It has become unsafe to travel at night. Dacoits loot buses, trucks and cars. The authorities love to display crime statistics. But these look rosy only due to massive non-registration of crime.

Bhagalpur is not a sudden development. It is the result of growing reliance on illegal solutions because legal solutions have not been available for many reasons, many of them being of a political nature. Such solutions are not a speciality of Bihar though that state has taken the lead in resorting to a particularly disgusting variety. But alleged criminals have been blinded in West Bengal and at least in one district of U.P.—Khari.

The two streams, which have finally met in Bihar, have been flowing in all the states. One is increasing lawlessness, especially during the last 8-10 years, with the result that the people have reached the end of their patience. The other is the destruction of the legal means of combating crime. When legal means are inadequate to deal with crime, or have collapsed, as in Bihar, and when the people clamour for security, both the politicians and policemen find it convenient to devise short-cut illegal

methods. The only surprising thing about the blinding operations is the frog-in-the well outlook of senior administrators in Bihar, who failed to see that such a ghastly operation, whether by villagers or policemen, was bound to cause national revulsion. But that apart, unless law and order is freed from narrow political subversion, the danger is that variants of the Bhagalpur disease may spread to other states, the next perhaps being U.P.

POOR SHAPE

Why has it happened in Bihar first? The run-down condition of the law and order machinery in Bihar is part of the poor shape of the total administrative system. The country could not have forgotten the collapse of the health administration in 1974 when Bihar accounted for over 80,000 cases of small-pox, more than 60 per cent of the world's total that year. On August 25, 1975 the sheer incompetence of the Bihar administration was shown when citizens in the state capital were overwhelmed by floods without any warning from the government. In 1976, the State lotteries, a money-spinner for all states, lost crores of rupees due to bunking and corruption. The disclosures about cooperative institutions in Bihar have also been shocking. The disclosures in early January 1979 by Mr. K. P. Rustamji about the fate of the undertrials in Bihar showed the collapse of the administration in various departments — police, prosecution and magistracy.

Bihar had a reasonably good police force from about 1951 to 1964. During this a period of about 14 years there were only two IGs

—Mr. M. K. Sinha and Mr. S. P. Varma. They were eminent officers, whose main anxiety was to keep the force free from political influences. From a DIG down to a constable everyone knew that they had to look to their senior officers for postings and promotions. DIGs and SPs did not find it useful to hobnob with politicians or with secretariat officers. With the death of the chief minister, Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha, and the quick changes in government, Bihar's administration, including the Bihar Police, fell on evil days. The power of politicians to blackmail the administration went on mounting and the resistance of senior officers crumbled. From January 1971 till today Bihar has had 11 changes of IGs. The crash of police morale came on January 24, 1972, when the then IG found someone waiting to take over charge from him when he returned from lunch.

QUICK MOVE

This lightning move against a straightforward and honest IG on the eve of Mr. L. N. Mishra's election in Lok Sabha bye-election gave notice to everybody that the police had to allow itself to be misused for political purposes. This happened when the State was under President's rule. Since then the IG has virtually ceased to be the head of the force and all ranks of the police have drawn close to politicians. Their responsibility of dealing with crime and criminals has become secondary to their duty of keeping their political patrons happy. The rot became so pervasive that even five years back se-

very numerous or PIRs or recorded crime did not lead to even formal investigation. Criminals knew much more about the working of police stations than SPs. It was an open invitation to big criminals to carve out their empire.

This had other consequences. While the honest officers were totally demoralized the dishonest ones developed a much political clout, based on caste, that they became virtually irremovable. As there were many changes of government since 1967 senior officers, willingly or unwillingly, became linked to leading politicians, often on the basis of caste. When the majority of police officers of all ranks became virtual political cadres the legal means of controlling crime became inoperative.

While statistics were kept under control the real crime situation deteriorated fast. Any discerning person could see the symptoms. In May 1973, 10 persons, suspected to be child-lifters, were lynched in Bihar—of these five in Patna district itself. From 1974 onwards violent agitations rocked the state so badly that the Police practically left crime investigation as a non-priority job. The lawlessness went to Patna on March 18, 1974, was unbelievable. The rest of Bihar followed suit and for one week property worth crores was destroyed including the building and printing machinery of *Searchlight*, a Patna daily. I.P. was so shocked by this lawlessness that on March 26, he gave a call for the resignation of the chief minister and the replacement of senior civil and police officers.

Since then lawlessness has become so endemic that even the feeling of responsibility has dis-

appeared. In the city of violence Bhagalpur division was the worst affected. Bihar soon developed several mafias, some of which even controlled the State apparatus. The most notorious one is the trade union mafia in Dhanbad.

Mafias controlled university campuses. The endemic lawlessness in universities is symbolized by the fact that in early 1980 the Governor (Chancellor) adopted the desperate remedy of removing all vice-chancellors and replacing them by IAS officers.

After the Janata government came to power the then chief minister, Mr. Karpoori Thakur, was faced with the question of lawlessness. To answer the criticism the police launched the operation KALIDHOT (Messenger of Death) in the last five months of 1977 as many as 84 criminals were killed by the police in encounters and 64 criminals were killed by villagers in similar encounters. This operation, legal or illegal, touched only the proverbial tip of the iceberg. In early 1978 the chief minister's own car was held up by dacoits. In February 1980 when the Paras-bhita incident occurred it was again clear that it was no isolated affair. After April 17, 1980, when the notorious outlaw Kamdeo Singh was killed by the C.R.P.F. it was found that he had an army of about 500 criminals to back him. Government servants paid homage to him and he got crores worth of government contracts under fictitious names.

ALIGNMENTS

The lawlessness in rural areas is to a great extent rooted in the nearly zero progress made in implementing land reform. Everyone knows that even senior IAS-IPS officers have been aligned to the landlord class on the basis of caste; politicians of most of the parties have been similarly aligned. The Naxalite problem in Bihar is mainly a consequence of non-implementation of land reforms. This is now mixed with politics and elections. In 1978 a minister plainly admitted in the State Assembly that he patronised goondas to fight elections. He asserted that all politicians did so, whether they admitted it or not.

Caste loyalties have become so deeply rooted in Bihar that the only solution left now before the government of India is to take steps to see to it that the IAS and IPS cadres of Bihar consist only of outsiders. This is much more essential than posting High Court Judges from outside the state. It is essential even for good officers who can have much better careers outside their home state. Many of the Bihar IAS and IPS officers have done exceedingly well at the Centre.

Bihar needs urgent attention for economic reasons also. A good law and order situation will improve several sectors of the Indian economy—coal production, mining of metals, railway efficiency and food production. Under the Constitution the President has powers to advise, to warn and finally to dismiss the State government. An expert body should lay down a time-print for Bihar's criminal justice system. The President should first advise the Bihar government to implement this time-bound programme. If the advice is ignored other steps can follow.

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU STAFF TROUBLES REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Dec 80 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 28.—The services of three employees of the Intelligence Bureau, Delhi, have been terminated under Article 311 of the Constitution, it was learnt today, says UNI. The employees are: Mr B. B. Raval, Mr A. K. Kaul, and Mr C. V. Joseph.

The action was a sequel to their acts of omission and commission and not because of their participation in the activities of the employees' association, official sources said.

Our Delhi office adds: The dismissal of the three officers of the Intelligence Bureau would lead to a nationwide agitation, warned a spokesman of the Intelligence Bureau Employees' Association. The three officers are office-bearers of the association.

At a Press conference today, Mr Raval said that the dismissal orders, under Article 311 (2-C) of the Constitution were issued on Friday and served the following day. The reason given for dismissal was that it was in the interests of the security of the country, Mr Raval said.

The dismissal orders were issued only to undermine the activities of the association, Mr Raval alleged. [as published] He is its president and the other two officers, dismissed on Friday, are its general secretaries.

Mr Raval alleged that the dismissals were the result of a long struggle between people, like himself and the other two, who were recruited directly to the bureau and police officers, who after being brought initially on deputation to the agency, now controlled it.

The IBEA, formed last year, had made regularization of cadres one of its main demands, he said. While officers with it, at times with 15 years of field experience, were stagnating in positions, IPS officers were brought immediately after training to hold senior posts.

Contending that intelligence work was not police work—the main difference was that the "danda" was missing—Mr Raval said there was no reason to support induction of IPS officers into the body. What was worse was that constables, brought along as orderlies by police officials when the organization was in its infancy, had attained ranks equal to that of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, he said.

The three dismissed officers were deputy chief intelligence officers in the organization. The director, all the nine joint directors, all the 36 deputy directors and all but 59 of the 140 assistant directors in IB were IPS officers, Mr Raval disclosed. Of the 381 deputy chief information officers, at least 100 were brought to the organization as orderlies by senior police officers.

He said that there was great discontent among the staff of the organization at the "shoddy" treatment meted out to professional intelligence officers by police officers. IB, he alleged, had become an asylum for unwanted police officers.

Mr Raval alleged that the dismissals had been made even as negotiations with the Prime Minister's Secretariat were on to solve problems of IB staff. He said that the association had adopted a resolution against launching an agitation until Mrs Gandhi decided on the matter, but they had been betrayed. [as published]

Senior police officers, against whom the association had lodged complaints with the Central Vigilance Commission, had initiated the move to dismiss the three officers, he alleged.

Mr Raval also alleged that "Delhi police had been unleashed" on him and the other two officers. [as published] A few days ago, officers of the police's special branch came to identify them but were sent away, Mr Raval alleged.

While intelligence agencies of other countries had clearly set out charters of duty, IB did not have anything of the sort, he said. To make matters worse, officers were urged to do extraordinary duties on the ground that it was a security organization but denied benefits on the ground that it was a civil organization and so could not claim anything not available to other Central Government servants, he said.

UNI adds: Members of the Nagaland branch of the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau Employees' Association began an indefinite cease-work yesterday, in protest against the dismissal of the president and the general secretary of the association by the Government.

CSO: 4220

CPI, CPI(M) SEEN DRAWING CLOSER TOGETHER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Jan 81 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

The CPI and the CPM, each for its own reasons, are coming close to each other. The CPI central executive at its just concluded session made the formation of a nationwide "left and democratic front" its major plank. It shows no signs of softening its hostility to Mrs. Gandhi's government. Ever since the emergency experience, it has had reservations about her and the bulk of the CPI no longer believes that the Congress (I) represents the "progressive bourgeoisie". Apparently the reservations have survived Mr. Sanjay Gandhi's disappearance from the scene, though earlier the CPI leaders had taken the view that he was responsible for the shift to the right. While Moscow remains favourably disposed towards Mrs. Gandhi, as has been reflected in Mr. Brezhnev's recent visit, it does not seem to have influenced the CPI's attitude. It is not certain whether during his discussions with the CPI leaders Mr. Brezhnev suggested that they seek accommodation with the government but if he did, he has not been listened to, not yet at any rate. Though Ajay Ehasia has often faithfully followed the dictates of the Kremlin, it has sometimes acted independently and persuaded Moscow to accept its line. Such could be the case in this instance if there are indeed differences between the two on this issue. But one cannot be sure. The Kremlin itself may be pursuing a two-pronged strategy. The CPI's desire to forge better unity with the CPM also makes sense if it believes that the days of Congress (I) rule are numbered. And the CPI has reason to feel safer in a "left and democratic front" than in a purely "left front" where the CPM's greater strength would inevitably make itself felt to its disadvantage.

The CPM — its politburo is meeting this week — has also given priority to the question of forming a "left and democratic front", thus shedding some of its hesitation on this issue. Substantial sections within the important West Bengal unit are hostile to the Congress (I) and the Janata, two would-be partners in the proposed alliance. Mr. Promode Dasgupta as organisational head of this unit had to unround

to these pressures. Now, he is apparently being pressed by the rest of the CPM leadership to fall in line with the national policy. The party strongly feels that Mrs. Gandhi is out to topple the CPM-dominated governments in Kerala and West Bengal. In Kerala the party leaders are also trying to end tensions with the Congress (U) and in West Bengal where the RSP and CPI are said to be gaining some cadres from it, the CPM according to latest reports, is seeking to improve relations with the other left parties by setting up left front committees at the district level. The CPM by more or less repudiating Chinese foreign policy has also moved closer to the CPI in its assessment of the international scene. It has not had much choice. Any party which wants its claims to "leftism" to be taken seriously has had to distance itself from China's strongly pro-West policy. And on major international issues such as Afghanistan, Kampuchea and Poland, the CPM has virtually endorsed the Soviet position.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

WEST BENGAL CPI(M) COMMITTEE MEETS, PLANS SESSION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Jan 81 p 3

[Text]

CONTRARY to previous conclusions, there was no Press briefing after the two-day session of the West Bengal State Committee of the CPI(M) ended on Wednesday. A party spokesman said that the briefing would take place after the next State Committee meeting, which is to be held between February 20 and 22.

The general session is considered fairly important in view of the presence of the party general secretary, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, Mr Bhambhani and Mr S. Y. Shastri. It is likely that the committee discussed inconclusively the issues relating to possible alliance with the Congress (U) with which the CPI(M) is running the Kerala Government.

While the politburo has advocated strengthening of the six-party alliance, which includes the Congress (U) and the Lok Dal, the State CPI(M) leaders have so long been lukewarm in such matters and have stressed that an alliance can be formed only on the basis of a united mass movement.

The CPI(M) State secretary, Mr Premadasa Dasgupta, who usually briefs the Press after the State Committee meeting, will be leaving for Vietnam on Thursday at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

WEST BENGAL NOT TO USE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jan 61 p 9

[Text]

The West Bengal Government is the only one to have informed the Centre that it does not intend invoking the powers of preventive detention, and the National Security Act, according to official sources. This implies that no other State Government has such reservations.

A communication from West Bengal, received some months ago, said that the Government or its officials would not detain any person under the preventive detention measures. But if the Centre or its officers pass any detention order and ask for the State Government help in its execution, the response would be positive.

Obviously, the West Bengal Government does not want to go against the Constitution by non-co-operating with the Union Government in the execution of Central laws.

The National Security Act, is enforceable in every part of the country, except Jammu and Kashmir.

Internal and Kashmiri detention law is more stringent and takes into account the special circumstances obtaining in the State.—Our Special Correspondent.

CSO: 4220

SOVIET AMBASSADOR DESCRIBES SOVIET AID PLANS

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jan 61 p 12

[Text]

More Soviet experts will be coming to India in the near future for oil prospecting and drilling. However, the oil tapped will remain in Indian hands, according to Mr. Yuli M. Vorontsov, Soviet Ambassador to India.

Mr. Vorontsov, who passed through Madras from Delhi to Trivandrum, this morning at the Mambalam airport expressed surprise that India should be sharing oil with its consulting firms. Countries like Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela paid cash for the services of consultants, but never shared their oil.

The Indo-Soviet Economic Commission, he said, would meet in Delhi between January 22 and 24. The Soviet delegation would be headed by its Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Arkhipov. An advanced party would arrive in Delhi on January 18 to prepare the ground for detailed discussions.

Mr. Vorontsov said Soviet Union would assist in raising 12 and 16 million tonnes of coal annually in the location. Thermal power stations of three million KW capacity would be erected in petroleum with Soviet assistance.

He said his country had achieved a breakthrough in power transmission technology whereby transmission losses were reduced to the minimum. Transmission of power over distances of 2,000 or 3,000 km. could be done economically by this method. "We have considerable experience in this field and will share the technology with India."

Mr. Vorontsov after his visit of Kerala will return to Madras on January 15 for a three-day stop. He is likely to call on the governor and Chief Minister before leaving for Delhi on January 18.

SOVIET AID SOUGHT FOR ANDHRA PRADESH ALUMINUM PLANT

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jan 81 p 16

[Text]

The possibility of going ahead with the Rs. 600-crore alumina project in Andhra Pradesh is linked up with Russian willingness to finance it substantially, and enter into firm buy-back arrangements for 100,000 tonnes of alumina.

Unlike the biggest aluminium complex in Asia to be set up in Orissa, for which French credits and Euro-dollar borrowing have been tied up, the Andhra Pradesh project cannot be implemented within the Sixth Plan period (1985) without external financing.

Questions relating to Soviet financing and offtake of alumina from the A.P. project, for which USSR consultants provided the feasibility report, are expected to be finalised during the meetings of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission to be held in New Delhi later this month.

The import content for such projects is not more than 15 per cent of the

total cost. India is, therefore, seeking cost financing from the Soviet Union, coupled with export of alumina to USSR.

The Government has not reacted favourably to a Soviet proposal to export bauxite ore instead of alumina, as it is considered uneconomical. Now is the country in a position now to transform the A.P. project into an aluminium complex with smelter facilities because of power constraints. The Orissa aluminium project, on the other hand, has been facilitated by the decision to have a captive power plant from the nearby Alcher coalfield.

The Orissa complex will be one of the few largest integrated aluminium projects in the world. Of 800,000 tonnes of alumina to be produced, 350,000 tonnes will be available for export. If India goes in for the 600,000 tonnes aluminium plant in A.P. without buy-back arrangement in advance, it will have to find markets for exporting one million tonnes of alumina annually.—PTI.

CSO: 4220

JAMMU, KASHMIR DEMAND INDUS PACT MODIFICATION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Dec 80 p 7

[Text] Srinagar, Dec 28. (PTI)

Jammu and Kashmir Government has urged the Centre to seek modification of the Indus water treaty with Pakistan to fulfil hydel power requirements of the State.

Mr D D Thakur, State Finance Minister told newsmen today that the request to the Centre was made during recent plan discussions between the State Planning Commission team led by Chief Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

Though State Government had made no specific proposal for the modification of the agreement, Mr Thakur said the request was made for enabling the State to make "alternate arrangements for water conservation" to food hydel projects in the State.

Mr Thakur felt that the modification of the water treaty sought by the State Government would in no way harm the interests of Pakistan.

On the contrary, if the changes in the treaty were introduced, Pakistan would also benefit, he said.

Mr Thakur disclosed that during the Sixth Plan period, the State Government proposed to instal the fourth unit of lower hydel project at a cost of Rs 12 crore.

This would generate additional 35 mw raising the total capacity of lower Jhelum project to 140 mw, he said.

CSO: 4220

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS SITUATION IN MANIPUR

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Dec 80 p 1

[Excerpt] Press Curbs

Imphal, Dec. 29.

Long before press censorship was imposed in Assam, Mr. L. B. Thanga, Chief Secretary of Manipur had muzzled the press in Manipur. In a personal letter to all Editors he sternly warned them to refrain from publishing "anything relating to underground activities".

At least two Editors who dared to publish some articles on insurgents were incarcerated. Ironically the State Government is violating this ban order with its numerous press handouts on curbing underground activities.

For quite sometime the State intelligence has been allegedly intercepting all despatches of Imphal-based correspondents of the national press. It has been confirmed that their Editors never received articles and photographs critical of the establishment.

A top ranking police officer admitted to some correspondents that in the past the State intelligence used to intercept letters and articles. However since the Army was called out some months back the military police have begun intercepting outgoing articles. An Army spokesman is tight-lipped in this regard. However, he gave the assurance that articles would be properly sent if they were given to him.

Foreign Hand: Informed sources fear that some foreign powers have started giving arms and ammunition to the Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) of Manipur. Reportedly using these foreign arms a suicide squad of the PLA has in the past few days attacked army personnel.

It is felt in many circles that the present spate of violence is meant to refute Army claims that the underground movement in Manipur will be brought to an end within a few months.

It is solely to the credit of the Army that all underground organisations except the PLA have been liquidated. In the beginning of the Army crackdown almost all hardcore elements had surrendered while the others were badgered and shot dead. Army combinb operations have failed to flush out hardcores of the PLA and to bring out arms and ammunition.

Intelligence reports say that the PLA has taken all arms except automatic revolvers to the Burmese jungle till dust settles on operations against them. For quite some time all underground activities except killing counter-revolutionaries were suspended to dodge the Army offensive.

Meanwhile, emissaries of the PLA had gone to Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura to come to an understanding. However unlike Mizo rebels the PLA has not given any arms to tribals of Tripura.

Because of intensified security measures in Nagaland and Tripura it is not possible to transport arms out of Manipur. Although hardcores of PLA had undergone guerilla training in China they were not given any substantial quantity of arms. They killed security personnel to collect arms. Besides they are purchasing arms from international gun runners with money robbed from banks and Government offices.

Curfew-bound Imphal wears a deserted look after 5 p.m. Heavily armed army personnel are patrolling the town frisking suspicious looking youth.

Common people who have to bear the brunt of any shooting incident are mentally prepared for long drawn war between the Army and PLA. Meanwhile an Army press note says that nine PLA men surrendered to the Army today.

CSO: 4220

KERALA MARXISTS SAID TO JOIN BJP, RSS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Jan 81 p 5

[Article by S. Balakrishnan]

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Kerala have disproved the Marxist theory of economic determinism, the state BJP president, Mr. O. Rajagopal, has claimed.

Mr. Rajagopal, who was here in connection with his party's national convention, told this paper that a number of landless labourers, who were originally active in the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), were joining the BJP and the Sangh "because they wanted something apart from increased wages."

With the CPM in power, it would have been more worth for them while if these cadres had remained in that party. [as published] Yet, they quit the communist party and had joined the BJP and the RSS. The former had nearly 75,000 members while the latter had some 1,500 shakhas in Kerala, a state with a tradition of left politics, Mr. Rajagopal added.

Interestingly, Mr. Rajagopal, a former lawyer of Palghat, said the BJP and the RSS were increasingly being favoured by the so-called low castes like the Ezhavas, Moothaans, Arayans, and Adivasis like the kurumas. This gave lie to the charge that these two organisations were pro-upper castes. He admitted that some of these elements formerly in the CPM and other left parties might have changed their loyalties after benefitting from the land reforms. [as published] "But, a large number of them had seen through the Marxist propaganda and had left the organisation in disgust," he said.

He disagreed with the suggestion that these elements might not have been sufficiently trained politically and hence switched their loyalties. "On the contrary, these persons were highly motivated and articulate," he further said. The hypocrisy characterising the personal lives of Marxist leaders was also a contributing factor to the cadres' alienation, he added.

The RSS was founded in 1942 in Kerala by Mr. Dattopent Thengdi, at present leader of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS). Since then it had been holding shakhas in different parts of the State. But it was only after the emergency that it came into prominence, Mr. Rajagopal said. The "stiff fight" put up by the RSS and the then Jana Sangh workers during the two years of emergency was highly appreciated by the

people. This was in sharp contrast to the role of the CPM "which failed to rise up to the occasion," he added.

Mr. Rajagopal said that some of the leftist elements who did oppose the emergency were imprisoned along with the Sanghites and it was in the prisons that many of the former's misconceptions about the Sangh received a jolt.

RSS' Insistence

In places like Ottupara near Wadakancherry in Trichur district, the RSS' insistence upon abstinence from alcoholic drinks, was one of the main factors responsible for its popularity, Mr. Rajagopal said. Ottupara was a village of "low caste" charmas, whole male members, specially the youth, were given to drinking. When some of the parents saw the work of the RSS, they encouraged their children to join the shakas, he added. "And since the Harijans have a strong group instinct, the entire village of about 450 people joined the organisation," he claimed.

However, the CPM was not trying to counter the RSS and the BJP politically, but was resorting to violent methods, specially against the "renegados," Mr. Rajagopal alleged. He cited the example of Panunda Chandran, a college student of Tellicherry and former activist of the CPM front organisation, the Students' Federation of India (SFI). "Chandran as the son of a stone cutter and was active in the party. But, he was fed up with the CPM and joined the Sangh. The Marxists were after him since then. On September 2, 1978, Chandran who was conducting a shaka in Pinari panchayat, a suburb of Tellicherry, was done to death. Thus began a series of murders," Mr. Rajagopal said.

According to a pamphlet titled "Marxists' murder politics" brought out by Mr. Rajagopal, 43 political "murders" had taken place in Kerala since the CPM ministry led by Mr. E. K. Nayanar assumed office. In all these cases except one, Marxists were involved. The clashes resulted in the death of 24 non-Marxists and 19 Marxists, the pamphlet adds.

CSO: 4220

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STUDIES SECURITY ORDINANCE

Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Bangalore, Dec. 30.

The proper enforcement of the National Security Ordinance and Cr. P. C. (Amendment) Ordinance was one of the subjects that figured at the southern regional conference of officers held here today to discuss the law and order situation.

Mr. S. M. H. Burney, Union Home Secretary, who had convened the conference, told newsmen that the Home Ministry had issued guidelines regarding the procedure to be followed and collection adequate material and proper examination before detention. [as published]

He said that the Southern States seemed to be circumspect in using the NSO and not many had been detained. It had been suggested that a workshop or a short-term course be conducted for those who were involved in drawing grounds for detention.

Mr. Burney said the States had been asked to conduct a crash course to ensure a change in the attitude of the police force. The course could be conducted in the form of 'courtesy week' and should be completed before next month.

A model scheme for training constables with emphasis on attitudinal and behavioural changes had also been circulated to the States. [as published]

The Chief Secretaries of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and the Inspectors-General Of Police of the four southern States attended the conference.

The conference, apart from reviewing the law and order situation also examined issues like the farmers agitation, communal riots atrocities on Harijans, discipline and morale of the police force, and the unearthing of unlicensed arms.

'A Zone Peace'

Mr. Burney said fortunately there were not many cases of communal riots in the southern part. Persons possessing unlicensed arms were also not large. As a matter of fact the south was a zone of peace. [as published]

He said the naxalite activities reported in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also figured in the discussion.

Mr. Burney said the police was involved in many situations these days and it was necessary that they were kept well and in high spirits. The State Governments were making a review of the syllabi of the foundation training for constables, Sub-Inspectors and Deputy Superintendents. [as published]

What had been emphasised was a fresh course to bring about a change in the attitude and behaviour of the police towards the public in general and the weaker sections, women and children in particular.

The conference also discussed the conditions in jails and of the under-trial prisoners and the expeditious disposal of trial cases. [as published] It was suggested that amenities like conversion of latrines to septic ones and separation of women and undertrial prisoners from other convicts could be undertaken immediately.

Mr. Burney said the Justice Mulla Committee on jail reforms had made recommendations on improvement to the Tihar jail in Delhi. [as published] On the basis of the recommendations improvement in jails all over the country could be taken up.

Mr. Burney said appointment of police personnel on the basis of population might not be a correct yardstick. The Bureau of Police Research and Development in Delhi was studying the fixing of norms for strengthening of the police force. [as published]

Mr. Burney said similar meetings would be held in the east and north zones. The west zone conference was held early this month.

CSO: 4220

POLICE COMMISSION OFFICER ON BHAGALPUR EVENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Dec 80 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 30.

Mr. Dharma Vira, Chairman of the National Police Commission, today clarified that the commission had not been asked by the Government to look into the incident of blinding of undertrials in Bihar.

"Where is the question of our being reluctant to go into the matter", Mr. Dharma Vira said.

He was referring to press reports that the commission had refused to take up the Bhagalpur incident as a case study. Even without being asked by the Government, the commission had discussed the matter at its several meetings, Mr. Dharma Vira pointed out.

Blinding was only an extension of third degree methods the police force employed traditionally. The commission had gone into the matter in great detail in one of the five reports submitted so far, he said.

The commission had recommended the total banning of third degree methods and had said that the senior police officers should ensure that such methods were not employed.

Police-media Debate

A confrontation between the police top brass and some journalists over the reporting of atrocities, crimes and above all, police brutalities, marked the second day's session of the National Media Convention here, on Monday.

Initiating a debate on "Police and media", Mr. K. F. Rustamji, member of the National Police Commission and former Director-General of the Border Security Force, joined issue with the journalists by denying the charge that the "despicable" Bhagalpur blindings by policemen had been treated lightly by the commission.

"We have already studied them", he asserted.

Mr. P. S. Bhinder, Commissioner of Delhi Police, defended the behaviour of the police towards the public and criticised the pressmen.

How many reporters employed by newspapers had proper qualifications and training for covering crime he wanted to know. Why had they not considered it necessary to write about lack of training facilities for policemen?

Wide Gap

Participants belonging to the journalist fraternity observed that the gap between the police and media was widening and problems had been created as there was no mutual faith between them.

They objected to Mr. Bhinder's wide-ranging remarks, particularly his justification of crime and atrocities on people on the grounds that "even a completely controlled society like the Soviet Union's had not eliminated crime. [as published]

Mr. Bhinder also invited the wrath of the speakers for building his case on the strength of such handicaps and "inadequacies" as there being "only one lock-up for every 1.5 million people in the country", and the situations the police were required to handle "with all this unemployment and price rise".

Speakers attacked the police force for its "Mafia-like activities" recalling Mr. Justice A. N. Mulla's pronouncement that it was "the largest organised criminals' gang".

The speakers were Mr. Gobind Mukhoty, a Supreme Court lawyer and prominent leader of the Civil Liberties Union and Mr. K. Vikram Rao, Mr. Ashwini Sarin, Mr. Krishna Majajan, Mr. Shailendra, Mr. S. Viswan, Mr. A. K. Sahay and Mr. N. Prasad, (all journalists) and Prof. Upendra Bakshi and Prof. Ashwini Roy.

The visiting leader of the Pakistani delegation, Mr. Z. A. Suleri, taking the floor, asked if it was "responsible journalism" to have published stories like the one about "discovery of thousands of bombs in a mosque" just because police had given that out.

The "bombs story" had been denied subsequently but it did have repercussions outside the country, he said.—PTI.

CSO: 4220

VICE PRESIDENT OPPOSES TRANSFER OF JUDGES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] Hyderabad, January 1 (UNI).

The vice-president, Mr. N. Hidayatullah, today disfavoured transfer of high court judges and the "extra-judicial emphasis on social justice as against justice according to law."

Laying the foundation-stone for the Andhra Pradesh State Academy of Judicial Administration, Mr. Hidayatullah, who was chief justice of the supreme court, referred to the demand for the constitution of an all-India judicial service and said this meant transfer of judges from one state to another. This posed some practical difficulties, as each state had its own statutes, language and way of life.

"Every state has a whole set of different laws, and judges cannot know all about them by reading, as they can by growing up with them. It is no use transplanting a judge from one state in another," Mr. Hidayatullah said.

The vice-president said there had been much talk in recent times on social justice, with emphasis on "social" than on "justice."

/"Amelioration of society is to be done by the legislators and not by the judges. The judges can at the most advance the purpose for which the law had been enacted but not express their differences with the law itself," he said./ [in boldface]

The Andhra chief minister, Mr. T. Anjiah, said judiciary was as important as administration and admitted that while administrative spending went up, there had not been a corresponding increase in the allocation for the judiciary. The number of judges was also inadequate.

Mr. Anjiah said delay in the disposal of cases, especially those involving economic offences, was causing concern to the government as stay orders issued in such cases resulted in a big loss to the exchequer. The courts did have a duty to protect fundamental rights, but sometimes it appeared that these rights were being misused.

Mr. Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy of the supreme court said most judges were living in ivory towers of isolation and felt that they should not be influenced by modern concepts of sociology, psychology, criminology and economics.

The time has come for us to develop new techniques to solve new problems, to keep pace with the swift changes in contemporary society in order to meet the new, ever-increasing social challenges," Mr. Justice Reddy said.

The state law minister, Mr. E. Ayyapu Reddy, called for "modernisation" of the courts by using latest technology like tape-recording, photocopying and micro-filming.

The chief justice of the Andhra Pradesh high court, Mr. Justice Alladi Kripnaswami, pleaded for the creation of an all-India judicial service.

CSO: 4220

CONGRESS(I) URGES DEBATE ON GOVERNMENT FORM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Dec 80 p 19

[Text] New Delhi, December 30.

The Congress(I) has decided to carry the debate on the form of government—presidential or some other more suitable democratic form—on a political basis.

This was disclosed here at a press conference by Mr. Lalit Bhasin, vice-chairman of the reconstituted legal cell of the AICC (I).

Mr. Bhasin said this decision was taken by the party because the opposition parties have converted this "intellectual" debate into a political one.

He clarified that it is not the desire of the Congress (I) to recommend any particular form of government but to high-light the deficiencies in the present system and involve the intelligentsia of the country in a healthy debate so that all the pros and cons of various systems can be discussed threadbare. For this purpose, the legal cell of the party had been reconstituted under the chairmanship of Mr. A. N. Mullah, lawyer of the supreme court.

Opposition Charge

Referring to the criticism of the debate by the opposition parties, Mr. Bhasin, who is member of the executive committee of the all-India conference of lawyers which initiated the debate on the subject, said it was based on certain "imaginary grounds." First, the opposition feels that "it is a move to give more powers to Mrs. Indira Gandhi."

"There is a basic fallacy in this thinking as it is conceded by eminent jurists, including Mr. N. A. Palkhivala, that the Indian Prime Minister enjoys equal, if not more, powers than the President of the United States".

About the second ground of criticism that there are certain burning issues before the country and that it is a move to divert the attention of the people from the problems, he said it was not tenable. "A debate on constitutional reform or system of government cannot be brushed aside on the plea that the nation is facing certain grave problems," he claimed.

He called the criticism by the opposition parties as "clearly motivated, baseless and frivolous" and charged these parties with turning the debate into a political

issue and attributing motives to the organisers of the debate as also the Prime Minister.

The allegations were being made by the opposition despite the fact that Mrs. Gandhi had stated repeatedly that the present system had stood the test of time but there was no harm in having an in-depth debate on improving the system.

He said those who were opposed to any discussion on the form of government forget one basic fact that even the founding fathers of our constitution had treated the statute as a temporary one which could be amended, modified or even replaced by future generations.

Personally, he said, he was in favour of presidential form of government with a healthy, two-party system as in the U.S. "No democratic system, much-less a parliamentary system of government, can function effectively in the absence of two parties," he said.

CSO: 4220

NATIONAL MEDIA CONVENTION ENDS IN DELHI

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Jan 81 p 11

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 31.

The three-day national media convention concluded here on Tuesday after adopting a code of ethics for journalists.

The convention, sponsored by the Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ), was attended by a four-member delegation from Pakistan, led by Mr. Z. A. Suleri, Chief Editor of the PAKISTAN TIMES. Many veteran journalists, official newsmen and public relations personnel also attended the convention.

Discussing the draft code, the Lok Dal General Secretary, Mr. Madhu Limaye, and Mr. D. R. Manekar, raised a controversy over their remark that "the new breed of journalists" was responsible for what they called a "deplorable" fall in journalistic standards in the country. [as published]

Mr. C. W. Chittaranjan, retorted that even senior journalists observed no norms of professional behaviour and were not worth emulating.

The Pakistani delegate, Mr. Suleri, commended the United Nations-prescribed international code of ethics for journalists and urged the convention to adopt it.

Several speakers, including Mr. Limaye, Mr. Chittaranjan, Mr. K. Vikram Rao and Mr. Sumanta Banerjee of Asia Depthnews, stressed that in order to be effective, any code of ethics must also be fully endorsed by both proprietors and editors.

Mr. Upendra Vajpeyi, President of DUJ, who presided, regretted that newspaper proprietors, with no journalistic qualifications and experience, were becoming editors of their papers. The code, therefore, specifically recognised only the "working editor" of a paper or journal.

The delegates also unanimously called for codification of parliamentary privileges without further delay in the interest of freedom of the press as well as of the people at large.

The CPI(M) leader, Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad, and spokesmen of other political parties spoke of grave threats from bureaucracy to the democratic rights of political parties to function independently.

At the concluding session of the convention, Mr. Namboodiripad said "somehow bureaucracy wants to control political parties."

Elaborating his charge, the CPI (M) leader referred to discussions between the political parties and the Chief Election Commissioner and said the latter showed a tendency to curb the activities of political parties.

For instance, Mr. Namboodiripad added, the Chief Election Commissioner, "a handmaid of the ruling party" proposed to "democratise" the political parties by expressing concern over their not conducting organisational elections.

Mr. Namboodiripad asked "is the right of conducting parties' elections also vested in the Chief Election Commissioner?" The parties could be curbed "only by those who want to curb democracy", he added.

It was "sheer hypocrisy and nothing else to keep harping on the myth of an independent press, an independent judiciary," the CPI (M) leader remarked.

Mr. Namboodiripad was also gravely concerned over another threat to the growth of democracy, ie. from the attempt at equating the chain of newspapers run by a party like the CPI(M) in several States, with the chains owned by monopoly houses. (as published)

Political papers, he asserted, were unlike those run by business monopolies since they were backed and financed by people. Moreover, their sole objective was public service and not the least profit motive which alone guided the press barons.

The Congress (U) General Secretary, Mrs. Tarakeswari Sinha, supported Mr. Namboodiripad's observations on privileges of Parliament and the law of contempt of court both of which they noted, impinged upon the rights of people.—PTI.

CSO: 4220

KAMPUCHEAN EMBASSY OFFICERS ARRIVE IN DELHI

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jan 81 pp 1, 10

[Text] "We are very glad to be the first diplomatic cadres of the Kampuchea Peoples Republic coming to this beautiful and heroic country, the fatherland of the Great Deva Mahatma aGndhi, for the consolidation and enhancement of the long-established firendly relationship between Kampuchea and India," said two senior diplomats, Mr Theam Chuny and Mr Thon Hin on their arrival in the Capital on Wednesday. [as published]

Mr Theam Chuny will take over as Charge d'Affaires and Mr Thon Hin as the First Secretary of the Kampuchean Embassy in India. They were received at the airport by an official of the Protocol Department of the external Affairs Ministry and representatives of various missions of socialist countries in New Delhi.

Also present at the airport to greet them were member of the International Department of the CPI Pratul Lahiri and All-India Peace and Solidarity Organisation's general secretary Om Prakash Paliwal. [as published]

In a statement, Mr Chuny said that after the collapse of the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique--the Kampuchean people under the leadership of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council had overcome many a trial to lead the country to the "path of rebirth and new development." He informed that in the last two years the new Kampuchea had recorded substantial achievements in economic, political, cultural, medical and educational fields as well as maintenance of order and security.

The people were now preparing for the free general election and the making of the new Constitution in early 1981.

Reiterating that the Kampuchean situation was "irreversible" and all attempts by Peking expansionists in collusion with imperialists and reactionaries were doomed to failure, he pointed out that the new foreign policy course of "independence, peace, friendship and non-alignment of our Government would be assisted by fraternal countries and friends".

He underscored that the Kampuchean People's Republic was a "positive factor to peace and stability in South-East Asia" and its recognition by the Indian Republic was a matter of vital significance.

They thanked the fraternal Government and people of India, the socialist countries, non-aligned nations and friends all over the world for their support to the just cause of reconstruction and defence of Kampuchean. [as published]

He hoped that friendly co-operation between the two countries would positively contribute to peace and stability in South East Asia.

Mr Chuay was a teacher in a secondary school in Kompong Cham province (his native province) during the rule of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, but after his overthrow in March, 1970 migrated to Phnom Penh where he was teaching in a higher secondary school till May, 1973 when Pol Pot took over. He like all citizens of Phnom Penh were herded to the countryside. He was taken to Kompong Thmar district in Kompong Thom province where he worked as a peasant under inhuman conditions.

He was among those enlisted to be killed but the liberation of the nation from Pol Pot's yoke saved his life. But he lost his father-in-law in the flames of Pol Pot tyranny.

Before coming to India he was working as Chief of Protocol of the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Kampuchea.

Thirty-one year-old Then Hin was a teacher of French in Takeo province and then Phnom Penh before Pol Pot took over. He was also exorted to the countryside to a village near the mountains 300 kilometres from Phnom Penh. Here they had to work 12 to 18 hours a day and he fell seriously ill. He too lost his brother and was among those in the list waiting for their turn to be taken away.

They informed that after the sudden death of 57-year-old Peou You Long (former Professor in the University of Art in Phnom Penh), who was selected to represent Kampuchea as Ambassador in India, the PRCK had decided to send 38-year-old lawyer Dith Muntz as the head of the Kampuchean mission here. Mr Muntz is shortly expected in the Capital.

UNI adds: According to official sources, "India will shortly send an officer as Charge d'Affaires to Phnom Penh" to strengthen its ties with Kampuchea. A decision in this regard has already been taken.

MINISTER OPENS SEMINAR ON LATIN AMERICAN TRADE

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jan 81 p 6

[Text]

There will be a direct shipping service between India and Latin America from March this year.

The Colombian Ambassador in India, Mrs. Dr. Nelly Turbay De Munca, announced at a seminar on trade and economic cooperation between India and Latin America here today that the Colombian shipping line would touch Bombay port in March.

She said to begin with, the service would be once in two months between Colombian ports and Bombay. Later the service would cover the other four major ports in India.

Everness Poteriat, inaugurating the seminar, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, Union Labour Minister and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission said that a well planned and an extensive effort on a sustained basis by India was the need of the hour to cultivate the Latin American market for Indian exports.

The enormous potential available for India in Latin American region certainly deserved far more serious attention on the part of Indian trade and industry than before.

Mr. Tiwari said that India might have to undertake an extensive campaign in Latin America countries for propagating its export interest in different fields.

The Minister who also holds the Planning portfolio said that according to a study by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, the Latin American region was expected to account for about 50 per cent of industrial production in the third world by the end of this century.

India had a very good opportunity to effectively assist and participate in the industrial development of Latin America through supplies of different types of capital goods and machinery as well as through industrial collabora-

tion and joint ventures.

Mr. P. C. Shukla, Executive Director of the Shipping Corporation of India, explained the difficulties in having direct service between India and Latin American countries in view of the long distance and insufficient cargo.

He said at one time it was suggested that there could be transshipment of cargo at Lebanon in Italy. The goods carried by Indian ships could be transhipped in Latin American shipping lines.

Another suggestion made was that 50 per cent of the loss incurred by the Indian shipping line as a result of maintaining shipping service to the Latin American countries could be borne by the Government. This did not materialise.

He said unless there was sufficient cargo to the Latin American countries, it would not be economical to have regular service.—PTL UNL.

KING OF BHUTAN, GANDHI HOLD TALKS IN DELHI

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jan 81 p 9

[Article from G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

The King of Bhutan, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, had a detailed discussion today with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on various aspects of Indo-Bhutanese relations.

The young ruler of this land-locked Himalayan kingdom had come to Delhi on his own initiative in response to Mrs. Gandhi's suggestion when they met a year ago after her return to power that there should be frequent exchanges between them.

The King was received by the President, the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister and the Chiefs of the three Services when he arrived today on what was perhaps the briefest visit by a head of State.

He would be in Delhi barely for 24 hours, before leaving tomorrow for Agra to see the Bharatpur bird sanctuary during an overnight stop-over at the tourist lodge.

But the host country has packed as many engagements as possible in this very brief duration. After calling on the President and holding talks with the Prime Minister, he is due to meet some Cabinet Ministers and Service Chiefs

before returning home at the conclusion of his two-day visit.

Though the King of Bhutan has been visiting India at least once a year, no Prime Minister of India has been to this mountain kingdom since 1972. The former President, Mr. V. V. Giri, went to Bhutan in 1974 for the present King's coronation.

The Indo-Bhutanese relations are generally conducted at two levels, in the bilateral sphere with India as the major contributor to Bhutan's economic development, and in the international arena covering sensitive issues of foreign policy and defence.

The King has been repeatedly expressing his country's gratitude for India's economic assistance. In the international sphere the special Indo-Bhutanese relationship has been coming in for constant review consistent with their respective national interest.

1949 Treaty

The 1949 treaty merely stipulates that Bhutan will be guided by India's advice on matters relating to external relations. But it imposes no mandatory obligation to accept such advice, although the question of Bhutan ignoring it has not so far arisen to cause any serious apprehensions.

The decision to establish a diplomatic mission in Dacca was, no doubt, taken by Bhutan without India's approval during Mr. Charan Singh's caretaker Government.

But on the more sensitive issue of relations with China, the present King has been more than correct in scrupulously adhering to the spirit of the treaty. At his instance, the Bhutanese National Assembly had formally adopted a resolution not to have any direct diplomatic or economic relations with China.

The Bhutanese Government has not been maintaining any overt contacts with China, despite Beijing's overtures. When the Tibetan guerrillas moved deeper last winter across the undemarcated border, Bhutan preferred to let India lodge the protest instead of taking up the matter directly with China.

But the question of demarcation of the border is there and Bhutan continues to be guided by India on how it should proceed to deal with it.

In the bilateral sphere, India has agreed to assist Bhutan in setting up an airline to promote tourism. Bhutan has assured India that every possible care would be taken to prevent undesirable elements from availing themselves of this facility to engage in subversive activities by circumventing the Indian inner-line entry regulations.

The necessary procedures for the grant of visas for foreign visitors to Bhutan and the procedure for security screening will be worked out in due course.

GANDHI SPEAKS TO BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jan 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Calcutta, January 4.

The New Year resolution of the country's industry and commerce should be to try and see "your problems in the national context, plough back profits for national good and to help those in need of it. Only then the nation will be able to give you the necessary support. Your success will be India's success, stability and prosperity," the Prime Minister said here today.

Mrs. Gandhi, addressing a special meeting of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI) referred to industrial unrest and told the West Bengal government to improve law and order and give proper guidance to their trade unions." [as published] It cannot expect industrialisation unless there is security of managers and others in the industry at the same time," she added. [as published]

This was an obvious reference to the local chambers of commerce issuing a joint statement yesterday expressing grave concern at the brutal murder of the personnel manager of Reliance Jute Mills by some workers inside the mill a few days ago and asking for a categorical statement from the government that it would tolerate no violence in industrial relations.

The chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, while condemning the incident, had traced it to an INTUC-affiliated union. However, the tone and timing of the chambers' joint statement, issued to synchronise with Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Calcutta, and their demand this morning to have at least a brief hearing from the Prime Minister (which could not be met) seemed to have intrigued many.

It is now said by chamber sources that the statement was finalised after a meeting of their officials dealing with industrial relations and that this did not commit the chamber president in any way. Apparently the initiative for meeting Mrs. Gandhi had come from the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The governor, Mr. T. N. Singh, in a brief speech, pleaded for having "a second look at the whole economic strategy" and pointed to the "stagnation in our state". He said it was time for the Centre and the state government to "apply their minds in a co-operative way" to ensure a revival. No state minister was present (nor was there any present at yesterday's Vivekananda /nidhi/ [in boldface] function).

Progress Linked

The chamber president, Mr. O. M. Somany, spoke of injustice done to the eastern region in respect of freight equalisation of iron and steel and virtually of coal and said either this system should be withdrawn or extended to all basic raw material. Mrs. Gandhi reaffirmed that there was no injustice to West Bengal. "We are fully aware of its problems", she said. Mentioning some of the major Centrally-aided projects like the haldia fertiliser project and CMDA, she said that full consideration had also been given to the state in terms of planning and allocation.

The power position unfortunately had not been good in West Bengal so far, and "I am told that our offer to send experts has not been accepted by the state government." Regarding the gap between rural and urban areas referred to by the governor, Mrs. Gandhi said it has been the government's endeavour to pay greater attention to rural areas, but funds remained a constraint. Resources could be generated only through increased production.

Moreover, agricultural or rural development would not be possible without industrial progress. As the rest of the world became more sophisticated, it became more difficult for countries like India to catch up. Also, the more backward was an area, the more difficult it was to bring it up.

The Prime Minister said despite fiscal and other measures to promote investment, the private sector "has not risen to our expectation. Fiscal concessions have not been passed on to consumers. New investment has not been of sufficient volume though it is vital to plough back more resources into productive activities." She expressed the hope that the chamber would promote and encourage new entrepreneurs and for the larger houses it would be a good gesture to give help to the weaker sections.

She said industrial sickness in the eastern region was of a special nature. Naturally, the industrial and commercial circles were worried and "I understand their expectation of help." She assured them that any worthwhile proposal for investment would receive the government's due attention. "I hope the West Bengal government also would do everything possible to encourage industrial growth."

Yet a great deal depended on the industry itself. Production and productivity depended on risk-taking, scientific modernisation and management. She referred to the steps taken by the government already to revamp the key sectors in which huge backlogs remained to be made up.

In power, coal, steel, fertiliser, consumer and intermediate capital goods production, the efforts had already started showing results. "But we are conscious that there must be relentless effort to maintain and improve efficiency." To some extent, the improvement of railways was dependent on the wagon-building industry, she added.

She said, "while the prospects for oil are disturbing, let us not lose confidence. There will be difficulties for all of us". Farmers had to contribute towards development, even though they might have grievances about price. There might be wage demands as well. "These problems should not be glossed over." Their solutions would be easier if situations were not politicised, she added.

Mr. Somany pleaded for "industrial peace for at least three years" and spoke of infra-structural and other constraints on an accelerated economic growth in West Bengal. He advocated that in power generation and coal mining or exploration of other sources of energy, "the private sector should be allowed to operate." He also spoke of constraints on higher production and expansion of capacity.

Earlier, Mrs. Gandhi visited the Belur math of the Ramakrishna mission in 24-Parganas, before opening a cancer centre and welfare house in Behala. From the chamber meeting she went for a few minutes to Eden Gardens to witness an exhibition cricket match. Thereafter she left for Delhi.

PTI adds: Mrs. Gandhi today expressed the firm hope that with the launching of the sixth five-year plan, the "desired thrust" would be given to the country's economy which had suffered considerable stress and strain during the last three years.

Addressing a special session of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Gandhi envisaged "bright, stable and planned development."

With the sixth plan to be finalised in the shortest possible time, "the desired thrust will be given to our economy with due regard to social justice," Mrs. Gandhi said.

She said during the last three years, inflation had reached a very high level, while industrial relations had slumped to a new low. There was no development effort with perspective and planning seemed to have been rolled over. The general picture was one of stagnation, she said.

CSO: 4220

GANDHI MEETS PRESS IN CALCUTTA ON 3 JAN

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 4 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Mrs. Gandhi told a Press conference in Calcutta on Saturday that she favoured a change in present system of Government to make it more responsive to the needs of the people. The main drawback of the existing system was the prevalence of red-tapism.

She denied that there was any move to introduce a presidential form of Government with a President-for-life. When told that the BJP leader, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, had made the charge, the Prime Minister said: "His imagination is working overtime. What has given him the idea? Nobody in the Government has said anything about there being a President-for-life".

She said, however, that even the parliamentary system was not the same everywhere. Nor was the presidential system. India did not exactly copy the Westminster model.

Asked whether there was any need for a change when her party had an overwhelming majority in Parliament and the Opposition was in disarray, the Prime Minister said it was dangerous to have an Opposition which was "weak and desperate".

The Prime Minister handled the barrage of questions with her customary aplomb. Asked whether reports that the West Bengal Governor would be changed were true, she said she had not heard about them, and then looked at Mr T. N. Singh sitting next to her with a smile.

She was slightly annoyed when asked whether the "grave situation" in the country warranted the imposition of an Emergency. "What can one say if asked the same question for 10 years at Press conferences? I have said a thousand times that the same medicine cannot be applied all the time. The situation may be serious today, but it is different."

She blamed the Opposition for "going out of the way to incite the people". They did not seem to realize that this could damage the national economy and prestige. She said: "Isn't it extraordinary that some people should go outside the country to say that we are going to war. Is this in the national interest?" She said the mechanism for the Government's cooperation with the Opposition parties had not been worked out.

Asked about the farmers' agitation, she said the agitators were mostly rich farmers who were "today getting better prices than they ever did." When told that the

President, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy, had supported the movement, she said she would not like to make any comment on what the President had said.

About the agitation by her partymen in West Bengal, she said she would not like them to create disturbances but they could go in for peaceful protests.

/Asked whether the West Bengal Government would be toppled, she said she did not believe in toppling. But she could not help it if the Government disintegrated and fell on its own./ [in boldface]

When told that Mr Jyoti Basu had alleged that if there had been any deterioration in the law and order situation in the State, it was due to the activities of her partymen, the Prime Minister said: "He is trying to oversimplify the situation." The "average citizen, people not connected with politics, would give a different version." She said the CPI(M) was involved in agitations and violence in other parts of the country. Mr Basu should examine the situation "in its entirety."

She denied that the Centre was not cooperating with the West Bengal Government. "They are always blaming the Centre". She felt that in some matters, West Bengal had received "a better deal" than many other States. Other Chief Ministers had also made similar accusations. The Centre had provided West Bengal with essential commodities. "It is for the State to see that these were properly distributed." Foodgrain was once held up by the Leftist unions.

Asked about the rising prices, the Prime Minister said: "Don't you think the business community has a responsibility?" There were certain items like petroleum about which the Government was practically helpless. But the prices of some commodities had gone up which need not have. She told a questioner, however, that the Preventive Detention Act would not be applied in this connexion.

Asked how the New Year would go, she said with a smile: "I am no astrologer. The situation is so fluid it is not possible to say what will happen. I can only say I have tremendous faith in the people of India. They have so much resilience. If only the Press were not such prophets of doom, we could build up self-confidence."

Asked whether she sympathized with the predicament of Madame Jiang Qing, the Prime Minister said: "It is not a question of sympathy for individuals. I do not believe in political murders or harassment of people on political grounds in whichever country it takes place."

Asked about the taxation policy in the next Budget, she said: "In an ideal society, there should be no taxes. But can one do it?"

CSO: 4220

GANDHI OPENS 68TH SESSION OF INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Jan 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] Varanasi, Jan 3 (PTI) Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today announced the formation of a commission on alternate energy to find ways to meet India's future energy needs.

Inaugurating the 68th session of the Indian science congress here, Mrs Gandhi said she would also revive the National Committee on Science and Technology (NCST) and set up a scientific advisory committee to the Cabinet.

She warned that energy was crucial to India's technological development and cautioned people to be thrifty in the use of not only oil but also of coal.

In the long run India's energy needs should be met by hydel, solar, and bio-energy, Mrs Gandhi said.

The Prime Minister said the commission on alternate energy she proposed to set up would advise on energy policy, draw up implementation programmes of these and other energy sources.

She said "the commission will give fresh impetus to innovative thinking".

Bio-energy and bio-gas plants present a vast panorama, and one should not underestimate the role of these alternate sources of energy in Indian economy, the Prime Minister said.

Mrs Gandhi said she was reviving the NCST and setting up the scientific advisory committee to the Cabinet in order to strengthen the links between universities and the laboratories and between the industries and user ministries.

The main reason for the gap between laboratory knowledge and their application is inadequate interaction between technologists and economists, she said.

Saying that environment is a subject close to her heart, she asked every major developmental Ministry to have 'advisers', to advise on environmental impact of the development work.

"Planners must call for ecological impact statements on probable long-term effects of any technological innovation", the Prime Minister said and asked every State to create a department of environment like it has been done at the Centre.

Cautioning against the indiscriminate use of pesticides and fertilisers, Mrs Gandhi said "we cannot simply afford the agriculture" based on high energy inputs.

"Efforts must be made to recycle the wastes", she said.

Referring to the controversial Silent Valley project in Kerala, Mrs Gandhi said she expected the State "to share our concern" and do their utmost not only to preserve existing forests but to extend and enrich them.

She said she was dismayed that some 300,000 qualified scientists and engineers were presently unemployed. Ways must be devised to utilise the unemployed manpower resources in new development projects in the countryside, she said.

The educated unemployed must also be encouraged to set up rural enterprises, she added.

The Prime Minister promised that the Sixth Plan when adopted would reflect most of the recommendations made during extensive discussions with the scientific community.

Mrs Gandhi promised all encouragement to scientists for ushering in a brave and bright new world. Pointing out that any diminution in basic science would erode India's technological lead, she said "we must make quantum jump in basic and applied research".

Delivering the presidential address, science congress president A K Sharma expressed serious concern at the pollution of lakes and said the famous Dal Lake in Kashmir would shortly become a "myth."

Introducing the focal theme for the 68th session of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) here today for discussion, Prof Sharm said the Dal Lake was an example of heavy eutrophication due principally to sewage discharge leading to extensive vegetation and choking at various sites.

Prof Sharma said pollution through inorganic effluents was in rapid progress in the Sagar Lake dividing Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Due to the growth of industries in and around the lake in the last two or three years, the entire water surface had been polluted with profuse growth of hyacinth.

Referring to pollution of rivers, he said the Ganga was regarded as the most polluted river in the world and the area surrounding Calcutta on the river Hooghly was a major pollution centre. [as published]

He said about 59 industries linked both sides of the tidal river belt. In the 120 km from one end of greater Calcutta to another, there were almost 270 outlets of untreated water to the Hooghly river.

CSO: 4220

GANDHI SENDS NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO NATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 31 Dec 80 p 1

[Report on Gandhi New Year's Message]

[Text] Wishing the nation a happy and prosperous New Year, the Prime Minister, today called upon the people to be ready to face new challenges and renew their efforts to make the country strong and self sufficient. She was laying the foundation of the Rs 260-crore thermal power project near Ropar.

She said the country was facing difficult times. "It is time to do some heart searching and ask ourselves whether we want to watch our individual interests or the interests of the nation as a whole".

The Prime Minister said it was regrettable that certain elements instead of helping the country and the people to solve their problems were engineering agitations everywhere. "How can we go ahead when we have to fritter away so much of energy time and money in dealing with such agitations?" she asked and said the people would have to make their choice.

In an obvious reference to the "long march" of the farmers in Maharashtra, Mrs Gandhi said that it was a wrong charge levelled against her party and Government that they were not watching the interests of the farmers.

She said the Government could neither be indifferent to the farmer nor the common consumer and assured that the interests of both would be watched in a most balanced way. However, sometimes the weak had to be paid more attention and this was in the interest of everyone.

Mrs. Gandhi said her Government's food policy had yielded encouraging results. Despite droughts in the past, the country never had to import foodgrain. On the other hand, the country had provided foodgrain to its neighbours. The huge foodgrain stocks also helped the Janata regime to face the drought situation.

She stressed the need for still more production, both in agriculture and industry. Referring to the increasing fuel prices, she said alternatives should be found to meet the challenge. The Government was also trying to explore how best to utilize solar energy, she said.

CSO: 4220

GANDHI HOLDS NEW YEARS DAY PRESS CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jan 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Thursday deplored the opposition parties' attitude of 'confrontation' with the government but offered to meet their leaders to discuss national issues, reports PTI.

She felt that most of the problems facing the country were beyond one organisation or one party and these had to be looked into from a much broader point of view.

Talking to newsmen who met her at her residence on the New Year day, Mrs. Gandhi conceded the opposition a right to oppose the Government on any issue but wanted these parties to regard certain issues as national issues.

Talking of the opposition attitude, Mrs Gandhi criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party for its stand on Assam. But she preferred to call the party as Jana Sangh.

When the Jana Sangh encourages the Assam agitation, have they thought of what repercussions there can be in other States, she asked.

During her meeting with the Press the Prime Minister answered questions about the problems facing the nation, especially Assam, farmers' agitations the attitude of the Press and the dangers before the country.

Mrs Gandhi warned that the nation was not out of difficulties although the economy had taken a turn for the better and there was a new sense of purpose.

Assam

Mrs Gandhi expressed optimism that Assam problem was bound to be solved some time and said that an initiative in this regard was a continuing one.

Wait and see, Mrs Gandhi advised newsmen who asked her what next after the rejection by the Assam agitation leaders of Union Home Minister Zail Singh's invitation for talks without pre-conditions.

About complaints by the Opposition that 'repression' had been let loose in Assam by the Government, Mrs Gandhi said that violence has always to be met and some people cannot have the freedom to affect the freedom of others.

"I do not know. Mrs Gandhi replied when asked if anything was happening behind the scenes to resolve the Assam tangle.

Mrs Gandhi spoke of her special feelings for Assam and said that she understood the anxiety and problems of the young people there.

We want to help in every possible way. But it must be in a way which is going to do long-term good to them as well as to the country. If any solution is going to raise larger number of problems, then it is not a solution, she said.

The Prime Minister asked how could the Government tolerate Government servants acting against the Government.

Looking back at 1980, Mrs Gandhi said that the economy had taken a turn for the better but "we are not out of difficulties".

"I think there is a new sense of purpose but still we have to deal with agitations", she said.

Talking of the attitude of the opposition parties, Mrs Gandhi asked "when the Jana Sangh encourages the Assam agitation, have they thought of what repercussions there can be in other States".

When asked if she meant Bharatiya Janata Party the Prime Minister remarked, "Well, to me they are the Jana Sangh. They can have any name they like but they are the Jana Sangh and the RSS their changing the name or pretending to change their philosophy does not change them."

Question: Madam, how do you look at the year that has gone by?

PM: Well, so far India is concerned, as you now the economy has taken a turn for the better but we are not out of difficulties. I think there is a new sense

of purpose but still we have to deal with all these agitations.

But so far as the general world situation is concerned of which, of course, we are also a part, I feel it is full of dangers and difficulties. Because once more there is the arms race and general hardening of attitudes. Not only is the stockpiling of nuclear weapons growing but people are taking to looking towards chemical warfare and other things which are equally disastrous. So unless the people all over the world think about these matters seriously, I think it does not bode well for the mankind as a whole.

Question: You mentioned agitations by the farmers and other sections of the people, how do you propose to deal with them?

P.M.: There is no question of dealing. The people who have come from Nagpur give quite a different version to what has appeared in some of the press. And not all (of them are) Congress people. They were there. They said they passed by the route and it was absolutely nothing to deal with at all.

Question: But there have been long marches and police firings?

P.M.: Not terribly long. The scale of it was not what (is claimed). So I am told. I was not there. Not only did MLAs and Ministers come but other people who have nothing to do with politics were there and had gone along that road for other purposes.

Question: There was police firing in Tamilnadu yesterday?

P.M.: You see, if you attack the police, however much we say that they should not fire and so on ...I cannot judge the situation unless one has a fuller report.

Question: Madam, there is general attitude of confrontation

between the Opposition and the Government...

P.M.: There is no attitude from the Government side. It is absolutely on one side, from the Opposition side. And it is very unfortunate because as I have said a time of difficulty and danger is also a time of opportunity. You can grasp that opportunity to overcome difficulties and go ahead or you can just get bogged down or they want us to get bogged down.

Question: Do you propose to call a meeting with opposition leaders to discuss such issues?

P.M.: You see, some of them do not come to these meetings and they say what is the use of calling everybody together. On various issues we have been meeting them separately and I am always willing to meet them.

Question: You spoke of the dangers facing the country and lately you have been speaking about some of the external threats. Do you have anything specific in mind?

P.M.: Well, these things are not specific. At what stage would you say they were specific. But the fact that foreign presences are growing, that armaments are growing, indicates something. And also the fact that Europe wants to fight out its battles in Asia. Economically also the affluent nations are not looking at problems from a long-term view. They are not looking at the difficulties of the developing countries.

Question: How do you look ahead to 1981?

PM: It is full of difficulties, but if we make an effort there is no reason why we cannot get over them. That is the responsibility of every citizen of the world, not just the Government of India or the people of India?

GANDHI SPEAKS AT NEWSPAPER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jan 81 p 5

[Text]

THE Prime Minister said here today that the effectiveness of newsmen and editors would increase if they wrote for the people rather than for those in politics.

Presiding over the centenary celebrations of "Kesari," a Marathi daily, and of "Maratha," an English periodical, both founded by Lokmanya Tilak, Mrs. Gandhi referred to the delicate relations between the government and the press and said neither the statesman nor the editor could have the last word. What interested her more was the relationship between newspapers and the people. "From persons like Lokmanya Tilak, we could rediscover the paramountcy of the people and of ideas. Institutions and journals must strive to take ideas to the people and people to ideas," she added.

Mrs. Gandhi said that hundred per cent literacy did not mean more education and wider media coverage of current events did not convey more knowledge to the public. The intelligentsia which participated in the freedom struggle was either educated in Britain or trained by British teachers. They absorbed British ideas and literature but were passionately Indian in outlook.

Their concern for the country gave them a penetrating insight into the problems and needs of the masses. They also clearly saw the weaknesses of the existing society and consciously fought to root these out. Because of its emotional involvement in the affairs of the country, the intelligentsia was able to resist the tremendous tide of colonial influence.

Mrs. Gandhi said by and large only those authors from the developing world who were cynical or somewhat ashamed of their background had won acclaim. The growing influence of advertisement had resulted in brainwashing a large number of the educated, making them believe that the world belonged to the rich and industrialised West and that only the affluent had the right to dictate fashions and directions.

"If we accepted political freedom as our birthright, we should also accept the right of the masses to better living conditions with basic needs and opportunities to carry on their profession in harmony and peace," Mrs. Gandhi said.

She said that while people generally talked about the poor and the rich, the minority and the majority, the rural and the urban, nobody talked of India. It was a fashion today to talk of man in general terms, but for this one should not only have much deeper relationship with the different cultures but roots in a particular culture.

Paying rich tributes to the "father of Indian unrest" as a man of the people, she said the Lokmanya had prepared the people to shoulder the responsibilities of a popular government. He spoke the language of the people, rather taught them how to speak their own language and built people's institutions. The landscape today was dotted by institutions built by that great nationalist.

The nation was grateful to the Lokmanya for his triple message — independence, democracy and selfless service. Tilak's life was a saga of sacrifice and suffering — sacrifice cheerfully made and suffering heroically endured. And in spite of his eminence and universal adulation, he remained simple and unassuming.

AT ITS BEST

Mrs. Gandhi said "Kesari" and "Maratha" of Tilak, and "Young India" and "Harijan" of Mahatma Gandhi were examples of journalism at its very best — concerned not with matters of the moment but with matters of movement. In Lokmanya's words, "Kesari was to make the rulers know the agonies of the people and the people know their own power." The pen and passion of the nation found their expression through the pen of Tilak, she said.

Mr. A. R. Antulay, chief minister, said both English and Marathi newspapers had lost their credibility and did not reflect the mind of the masses. There was a wide communication gap between the newspapers and the people. The journalists should ask themselves whether their journals reflected the aspirations of the people.

He said that those who criticised Mrs. Gandhi should go to the villages to find out what the people thought of her.

Mr. Antulay welcomed the proposal to bring out Bombay editions of "Kesari" and "Maratha".

Mr. J. S. Tilak, trustee of the Kesari Maratha Trust and minister for energy, said Tilak, as a journalist, had set a new trend in Marathi journalism, comparable only to John Morley's "Pall Mall Gazette" which influenced a wide range of society in Great Britain.

He said "Kesari" intended to expand its sphere of activities. "Kesari" and an English language journal "Maharatta" (fortnightly) would be published shortly from Bombay under the editorship of Mr. Rajabhai Kulkarni.

GANDHI OPENS CONVENTION OF OVERSEAS INDIANS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jan 81 p 5

[Text]

THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has appealed to Indians abroad to shed grogginess so that they could articulate their grievances unitedly.

She was inaugurating the third all-India convention organised by the Overseas Indian Jambho Association at the Homb Bhabha auditorium here today. The association was formed over 12 years ago in Bombay and aims at providing a meeting ground for non-resident Indians and their well-wishers here. Initially, the association was concerned with only those from East Africa and hence the word "Jambho" which is a Swahili greeting.

Mrs. Gandhi observed that in the U.K., the U.S. and Canada, where there were large concentrations of Indians, many groups based on regional and linguistic factors had emerged and were functioning in rivalry to one another. When the government communicated with one of them, the other groups were quick in claiming to be the really representative bodies. That made it difficult for the government to deal with the non-resident Indians and effectively and their grievances she added.

Mrs. Gandhi praised the overseas Indians for their commendable performance there. The foreign governments had recognised the contribution made by Indians. The Indian government had implemented several programmes aimed helping the non-resident Indians, she said.

GOVT. FACILITIES

The government had permitted the free purchase of securities like unit, national saving certificates by non-resident Indians. Facilities had been granted to repatriate dividends and interest amounts. Income from investment and capital could also be repatriated after approval by the Reserve Bank. Non-residents could invest in 19 industries up to 74 per cent. and with the option of repatriating capital and income. Restrictions on immovable property applied only to those Indians with foreign passports. Normally, they could acquire one immovable property for residential purposes, she stated. All other Indians abroad could acquire immovable property without the approval of the Reserve Bank, she added.

Regarding the suggestion for easy remittance, the study group appointed by the government would soon take a decision.

Tracing the history of Indians who had settled abroad, Mrs. Gandhi noted that the British had exported labour to their colonies. The labourers were followed by traders. But, even before the advent of the British, India had significant commercial and other ties with foreign nations. Lately, the drain of talented Indians had been the subject of a debate in the country. The government was aware of the desire of Indians abroad to serve India. Efforts were being made to channelise their talent for national development.

In his address, the Union deputy finance minister, Mr. Maganbhai Barot, stated that at present remittances from overseas Indians was only Rs. 2,000 crores annually. That represented only a fraction of what could really be remitted to the country. The present economic crisis in the country had to be fought on a war-footing and the help of overseas Indians had to be sought. He said the present government recognised the role of non-residents in national development. The number of foreign collaborations sanctioned in 1980 was double that of 1979.

Welcoming the gathering, the association president, Mr. C. P. Shah, urged the government to make a cost-benefit analysis of the remittance issue and take steps to ensure the smooth inflow of foreign exchange.

The chief minister, Mr. A. R. Antolay, the Union minister of state for communication, Mr. Vijay Naval Patil, the minister of state for defence, Mr. Shivaj Patil, were among those present at the function. The association vice-chairman, Mr. N. M. Brahmabhatt, proposed a vote of thanks.

STEPS TAKEN TO MOLLIFY INTELLIGENCE STAFF

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

Several steps to relieve the causes of discontent among the personnel of the Intelligence Bureau have been taken by the Union Government.

From now on, non-gazetted employees of IB would be paid an extra month's wages a year to compensate them for working on holidays or beyond normal hours of duty.

Other measures include creation of extra posts to improve opportunities of promotion and to remove stagnation. In addition, selection grades have been introduced to expand career opportunities.

The conveyance allowance for field duty has also been increased.

Whether these steps follow the agitational atmosphere built up by some leaders of the Intelligence Bureau Employees' Association is not clear, but there are indications that the Government has been able to dissuade a large section of the staff from the path of agitation.

Recently three leaders of the IB Employees' Association were removed from service on grounds of national security. They are Mr. B. K. Raval, president, Mr. A. K. Kaul and Mr. Verghese Joseph, both general secretaries. All of them were of the rank of Deputy Central Intelligence Officer.

Government says IB employees are stated to have put their signatures to a memorandum submitted to the Director, Mr. T. B. Rajeshwar, condemning the various acts of commission and omission of these dismissed persons.

The memorandum says that the activities of these officers impinge on national security, and the signatories have dissociated themselves from all activities of the Association. They have urged their colleagues all over the country to do so.

Mr. Rajeshwar told a deputation of nine employees, who placed the memorandum before him, that the Government had already decided to remove their grievances.

The deputations were reported to have expressed their surprise that these facts had not been disclosed to them by the dismissed office-bearers.

VENKATARAMAN ADDRESSES FINANCIAL WRITERS MEET

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 31.

The Union Finance Minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman said today that the increase in industrial production in 1980-81 would be four per cent though he had earlier hoped it would be eight.

He gave figures to indicate that production in the key sectors of the economy, including power generation, coal and food, with the exception of fertilizers had gone up.

However, there was no room for complacency, he said addressing the Forum of Financial Writers. "International factors", he said, "will continue to exert pressure on our price level. We have therefore to be continuously vigilant to see that we do not add demand pressures to the cost push factors already in operation in the economy".

Expressing distress over the efforts of many sections of society to secure a larger slice of the national cake by agitation and disruptionist tactics, Mr. Venkataraman said the damage caused to the economy by the farmers' agitation was greater than that caused by agitations by industrial workers.

"It is the duty of the more powerful sections in society to exercise a certain degree of self-restraint", he said.

Replying to questions on the Government's borrowing from the Euro-dollar markets, Mr. Venkataraman said two major loans--one for the Orissa aluminium project, for \$680 million and another for \$200 million for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission--have been negotiated. These loans, repayable in 10 years, will be drawn over a period of four years.

He said there had been a drop in money supply by Rs. 1,695 crores during the current financial year, from March 28 to November 21, in contrast to the expansion of Rs. 1,549 crores in the same period last year.

Aggregate monetary resources, however, registered a slightly larger increase in absolute terms, of Rs. 4,128 crores against Rs. 4,058 crores in the same period last year. [as published] Credit given by the Reserve Bank from March to

November was also much higher, at Rs. 2,086 crores, compared to the Rs. 621 crores during the same period the previous year.

Investment Puzzle: The Minister said he was puzzled by the way the industrial community had been responding to the various concessions given by the Government to increase industrial investment.

"Whatever problems they have faced in the past are being looked into and are being redressed speedily. Industrial licensing has been made more simple by cutting out a lot of red tape. Automatic increases in capacity up to a certain extent has been allowed, he said. Mentioning the other incentives and concessions announced earlier by the Government, Mr. Venkataraman said, "I do not know what exactly comes in the way of the industrial community's coming forward to take advantage of all these incentives and increasing investment".

He said there had been a noticeable increase in coal and steel production while nitrogenous fertilizer output had declined.

He gave the following figures for the different sectors of production. Food production in the kharif season is expected to be 80 million tonnes while rabi production will be beaten 52 to 54 million tonnes, making for a total of about 130 million tonnes against 108.55 million tonnes in 1979-80.

He could not give a rosy picture of oilseeds production and the country has had to import edible oils worth Rs. 600 crores.

Power generation had amounted to 326.7 million units up to November this year against 271.03 million units till the end of November last year. In December 1980, power generation had gone up to 321.44 million units against 275 million units in December 1979.

Total cumulative power generation for 1980-81 till December 25 was 81,354 million units against 78,446 million units in 1979-80.

Coal production is expected to reach 113 million tonnes in 1980-81. Cement production had amounted to 15.54 lakh tonnes in November 1980 against 12.42 lakh tonnes in November 1979. Sugar production during the current year is expected to be between 55 and 58 lakh tonnes.

The number of mandays lost had shown a sharp decline from 37.58 million in January-September 1979 to 9.89 million in January-September 1980.

CSO: 4220

FINANCE MINISTER PREDICTS HIGHER BUDGET DEFICIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 31.

The budgetary deficit for 1980-81 may be higher than the Rs. 1,400 crores estimated at the time the Central budget was presented in June 1980 but far less than the "record budget deficit" of Rs. 2,700 crores for 1979-80.

This indication was given here today by Mr. R. Venkataraman, Union Finance Minister, during his discussion with the Forum of Financial Writers.

He hoped it would be possible to hold the deficit within "reasonable limits". He said, "As of now, the tax receipts have been according to budget estimated and in fact, customs revenues have been running even above that level. Lately, receipts from direct taxes have also been showing some improvement over budget estimates. Though excise duties are somewhat sluggish, with the pick-up in industrial production, it might be possible to realise the estimated revenue".

While conceding that he had made a "somewhat tall claim" when he presented the budget that prices would stabilise and might even go down after the price hike in oil had played itself out, (implying that things did not exactly happen that way), Mr. Venkataraman nevertheless said that the price rise had been arrested.

"The monthly rate of inflation which increased by one per cent in August and September", he said, "has declined by 0.6 per cent in October. Since then the decline has accelerated to 2.3 per cent in November. On an annual basis, the inflation rate has come down from 23.4 per cent last year to 12.2 per cent this year".

He pointed out that the arrival of widespread winter rains, increased sugar production, higher power generation etc., all pointed to a favourable turn in the price situation in the coming months.

"Constant vigilance, however, will have to be maintained to see that the price level is kept under control and the gain so far made in this respect improved upon".

Import Bill: About the serious balance of payments situation, the Minister said taking into account the recent increases in oil prices, the country's import bill might be 60 per cent more than the export target of Rs. 7,100 crores, and the trade gap would be around Rs. 4,300 crores.

He, however, explained that despite this huge gap, the exchange reserves of the country which stood at Rs. 4,885 crores at present would be drawn down only by Rs. 500 crores during 1980-81.

This was because part of the trade deficit would be met from the funds available from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) credit of Rs. 815 crores and inward remittances amounting to about Rs. 2,100 crores during the year.

The flow of inward remittances has been slightly higher than they were last year. But, exchange reserves have gone down by Rs. 362 crores during the year.

CSO: 4220

SHORTAGES DIM ENGINEERING INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

MR Manmohan Singh, president of the Association of Indian Engineering Industry said in Calcutta on Friday that if the supply of inputs, like power and steel, remained slack the overall prospect of the engineering industry in the country for 1981 was extremely bleak. The industry suffered a 1% fall in production during April-August, 1980, compared to the corresponding period the year before.

Stating that raw material shortage was the industry's main constraint, Mr Singh told reporters that input steel production in the country fell by 10.5% during the April-November, 1980 against the same period in 1979. Power deficit stood at 21.4% in April-August, 1980. Capacity utilization of thermal and nuclear power plants stood at 61.4% in April-August, 1980, against 46% during the corresponding period the year before.

He said that the Centre had not taken any decision on the association's proposal for setting up co-operative power plants in the joint or private sector. The Government would have to spell out its policy on debt-equity ratio, financing of the projects with loans from foreign commercial banks and the distribution of power to be generated in such co-operative power stations before the private sector could make definite plans in this regard. He regretted that despite its resolve to improve the economy, the Government was slow in taking im-

portant decisions, as a result when the decisions were ultimately taken their implementation became tardy.

Strongly criticizing the Joint Plant Committee's steel distribution policy, he demanded that heavy engineering units in the private sector which were catering to the needs of the essential national projects, be upgraded from status "C" to status "A" category like some other heavy engineering units in the public sector for the supply of steel. He also demanded withdrawal of the recently introduced price and purchase preference policy towards the public sector units. He felt such a protectionist policy was discriminatory.

When Mr Singh was told that the Government was claiming all round improvement in the economy in the recent months, he said that only three days ago three thermal power plants in Haryana had closed down for lack of coal supplies. This was not a sign of improvement, he added.

INDIA

NEW VICE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF ASSUMES DUTIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Jan 81 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, December 31 (PTI):

Air Marshal Dilbagh Singh, air officer commanding-in-chief, Western Air Command, took over today as vice-chief of the air staff at air headquarters here.

Commissioned into the Indian Air Force on September 4, 1944, he has over 5,000 hours of flying to his credit.

An outstanding fighter pilot, Air Marshal Dilbagh Singh was the first to command a transonic squadron, says an official release. The first supersonic squadron of the Indian Air Force was also commanded by him.

For his distinguished services of the most exceptional order, the air marshal was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 1977. He was mentioned in despatches during the Kashmir operations in 1947, was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 1966 and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 1970.

CSO: 4220

NORWAY TO ASSIST INDIA IN OIL EXPLORATION

Ministers' Talks Reported

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Dec 80 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, December 30.

Norway has responded positively to India's proposal for assistance in the field of oil exploration and production.

The visiting Norwegian foreign minister, Mr. Knut Wrydenlund, during his talks with Mr. P. C. Sethi, minister for petroleum, promise to convey to his government the Indian suggestion for collaboration in this field including opening a special line of credit to India.

During the Norwegian foreign minister's talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, it was agreed that bilateral economic co-operation should be further diversified to include oil exploration and manufacture of trawlers.

According to the spokesman of the external affairs ministry, Mr. Rao appreciated Norway's economic co-operation with India, especially in the development of fisheries.

There was agreement that bilateral trade could be increased and that India could possibly export 200,000 tonnes of alumina from the Orissa plant from 1986 onwards.

Norway, with its considerable experience in offshore oil exploration, may be able to supply special types of vessels, drilling ships and rigs and collaborate in research and development and data collection. A team of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had visited Norway in September to identify the areas of co-operation.

The talks between the two foreign ministers covered developments in Poland and Afghanistan and their likely impact on detente. The Norwegian foreign minister has come here after visiting Moscow.

They discussed the difficulties affecting the North-South dialogue in the context of the special U.N. session and discussions of some foreign ministers at Vienna.

The two leaders hoped that the proposed summit of the heads of government in Mexico early next year would give the necessary impetus to break the stalemate in the North-South dialogue.

Peace Zone

The subject also figured in the external affairs minister's speech at the banquet in honour of the Norwegian foreign minister with Mr. Rao appreciating Norway's realistic perception of the world's economic problem.

India appreciated Norway's strong sympathy with the aspirations of the developing nations, he said.

Mr. Rao expressed India's concern over the international situation regretting the setback to the process of detente and the revival of the cold war and confrontation.

In an apparent reference to Afghanistan, Mr. Rao said India was against the use of force and all forms of outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign, independent state. He also said that two neighbours (Iran and Iraq) were engaged in a protracted and wasteful conflict.

The external affairs minister said India was anxious that the whole region, including the Indian ocean, was kept free of military presence of outside powers and peace and stability was ensured so that countries of the area could concentrate on the task of improving social and economic conditions of their peoples.

The Norwegian foreign minister said that in the present complicated world situation, it was necessary to keep all channels of communication open. The relationship between North and South was the most important challenge, he said.

An economic and technical co-operation agreement between the two countries will be signed tomorrow.

Agreement Signed

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, January 1 (PTI): A general agreement for the promotion of socio-economic development between India and Norway was signed here today.

The five-year agreement sets forth the terms and conditions for development assistance to be provided by Norway to India for various development projects.

Under the agreement, which is in the nature of an umbrella protocol, Norway will provide financial and technical assistance in the shape of consultants, ancillary equipment and training awards for Indians selected for training in Norway, as also commodity assistance.

The agreement was signed by the visiting Norwegian foreign minister, Mr. E. Freydenlund and the finance minister, Mr. K. Venkataraman.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and Mr. Freydenlund had a general exchange of views today on the international situation with particular reference to the critical developments in Europe and Asia.

The two leaders, who met for half an hour, acknowledged that detente was under strain in different parts of the world and all countries and international community should try to preserve it.

DELHI SCHOLAR ANALYZES SITUATION IN ASSAM

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30, 31 Dec 80

[Article by Susanta Krishna Dass: "Stalemate in Assam"]

[30 Dec 80, p 8]

[Text] The number of people whose mother tongue is Assamese, as well as their share of the State's total population, is increasing faster than the national growth rate, argues Susanta Krishna Dass, dismissing fears of a threat to Assam's cultural identity. In the first of two articles examining the questionable logic of the agitation leaders, Mr Dass, who is a teacher-fellow at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, also claims that Assam receives a disproportionately high share of funds for industry and communications and that the charge of neglect by the Centre cannot, therefore, be sustained. Tomorrow Mr Dass will discuss Assam's genuine grievances.

The fundamental apprehension underlying the agitation in Assam is that due to heavy "infiltration of foreign nationals", the Assamese run the risk of losing their linguistic and ethnic identity. These rights being of undisputed legitimacy, there can be no divided opinion if the apprehension is factually tenable. It is, therefore, necessary to ascertain how far Assamese fears are valid.

Statistics show that the number of Assamese increased from 21.69 per cent (8.35 lakhs) of the State's (then province) population in 1911, to 60.89 per cent (89.05 lakhs) in 1971. The corresponding decline in the Hindi, Bengali and tribal language groups was from 6.11 per cent, 45.67 per cent and 26.53 per cent to 5.42 per cent, 19.71 per cent and 13.98 per cent. Thus, Assam, which was one of the world's smallest geographical regions with the largest number of languages and linguistic groups--"a philologist's paradise" and "a veritable babel" according to the 1931 Census--was gradually emerging as a unilingual State. This "biological miracle" (Census, 1961) took place because of the large scale absorption of speakers of other languages. The 1951 Census report observed: "With the solitary exception of Assamese, every single language or language group in Assam shows a decline in the percentage of people speaking the same... The figures do not fail to reflect the aggressive nationalism now prevailing in Assam..."

Growth Rate

If Assam's population increased by 280 per cent (38.49 lakhs to 146.25 lakhs) in 1911-71, Assamese speakers increased by 966 per cent. The relevant question now is, if the percentage of speakers of a language goes up from only 21.69 per cent to 60.89 per cent of a State's population, does that indicate any danger to its identity?

Pointing to Assam's higher growth rate (13.33 per cent above the national average in 1951-61 and 10.15 per cent more in 1961-71) the All Assam Students' Union blames "infiltration". But this simple thesis cannot explain the full reality of a complicated demographic problem for Assam's growth rate has been higher than the country's ever since 1901. The highest ever difference of 20.77 per cent was in 1911-21. Numbers in the country as a whole have burgeoned since 1951, but in Assam's case, the increase is from 19.94 per cent in 1941-51 to 34.97 per cent during 1951-61, registering a net increase of 15.03 per cent, whereas the national net increase was of 8.33 per cent. The corresponding link relative growth rates are 75.38 per cent and 62.58 per cent respectively. Thus, the relative position has changed maintaining the gap-parity.

The explanation is that with the launching of Plans in 1951, India entered the second phase of demographic transition and so the natural growth rate of population jumped up. Assam's jump was a little higher because of (i) the State's higher fertility rate, hinted at in the 1971 National Atlas; (ii) the influx of Hindu refugees from East Bengal; and (iii) an increased inflow of Indian nationals from the rest of the country. Refugees alone cannot account for the difference. Incidentally, Assam's fertility rate has always been above that of the nation's due to a higher ratio of Muslim (25.3 per cent as against 10.7 per cent for the country in 1961) and various aboriginal and indigenous ethnic groups which propagate faster than Hindus.

The charge of 45 lakhs "foreigners" is based on imaginary data. In their memorandum to the President, the Assam College Teachers' Association based this figure on Assam's higher decennial growth rates, again disregarding demographic reality. Assam's death rate was very heavy until 1921, the impact of immigration was more pronounced, and the natural rate was lower than the national average. But since 1921, thanks to public health measures, the death rate has declined and the birth rate remained the same, so the natural rate overtook immigration and also surpassed the all-India mark. Since then, it has remained so. Therefore, it is necessary to ascertain separately growth due to Assam's higher fertility rate and due to immigration.

The task is tricky because separate official figures are not available. However, 1961-71 was the only decade since 1911 when the Assamese-speaking population increased solely due to the natural rate. There was no absorption of other languages. This is corroborated by the first ever decline of Assamese speakers (-1.47 per cent) since 1911. No other language group suffered a similar decline. Further, the Assamese percentage fell a little because the share of Hindi and Bengali rose a bit more due to some inflow in addition to their natural rate. Statistics show a 31.77 per cent (67.58 lakhs to 89.05 lakhs) growth rate for Assamese speakers during 1961-71. Thus, the Assamese speakers' fertility rate is 6.97 per cent higher than the nation's. Adjusted to the State's total population, it comes to 4.24 per cent above the national fertility rate.

Assuming that Hindi and Bengali speakers boast the national growth rate (24.8 per cent), they numbered 6.41 lakhs and 25.07 lakhs. This means that the excess of 1.51 lakhs and 3.75 lakhs for Hindi and Bengali speaking people respectively is explained by immigration. Other linguistic groups, including the Nepalese, have the same growth rate as the Assamese.

No Increase

Following this methodology, the excess number of Bengalis during 1951-61 was 12.7 lakhs. This group's natural increase during 1961-71 was 3.1 lakhs. The excess number of Nepalese during 1951-71 is estimated at about 16,000. Adding up, the total number of "foreign nationals" in 1951-71 was 19.71 lakhs. If all the Bengali Hindu refugees and Nepalese to enter Assam since 1951 are treated as foreigners, only 43.8 per cent of the 45 lakhs claimed by the agitators will be accounted for.

A popular misgiving relates to potential Muslim infiltration. It is presumed that such "infiltrators" are able to assimilate with the Assamese following the old practice of Muslims describing Assamese as their mother tongue. Two developments follow if the presumption is correct. First, there should be a steep rise in the number of Assamese speakers as happened in 1911-51. But there was no increase in the percentage of the Assamese speaking population during 1951-71, the rate of increase being only 2.73 per cent as against 25.27 per cent during 1931-51 and 31.42 per cent during 1911-31.

Second and more important, given the generally higher Muslim rate of growth, this influx should have meant both a bigger share of the State's total population and a higher growth rate than for Indian Muslims elsewhere. But analysis on the basis of religion during 1961-71 shows that (i) the Hindu population of India declined by -0.78 per cent while that of Assam increased by 1.18 per cent; (ii) the Muslim population of India went up by 0.5 per cent while that of Assam declined by -0.74 per cent; (iii) Assam's Christian population increased, notwithstanding separation of several hill States, at a faster rate than elsewhere; and (iv) the link relative rate of growth is lowest for Assam's Muslims compared to Hindus and Christians. The conclusion is that the claim of "infiltration" of East Bengal Muslims is a statistical inconsistency.

The impression also persists that Assam has been economically neglected by the Centre. The complete picture of New Delhi's attitude can be ascertained by two indicators, namely, federal transfers of all kinds and Central investments. In an earlier article (Spotlight on Assam II, November 3-4) it was shown that if the divergence index is taken as the barometer of testing the Centre's attitude, Assam cannot complain since its divergence index for the period 1973-74 to 1978-79 is the highest among the 15 larger States and the four in the lower spectrum of per capita income. The per capita share of federal grants (all types) and loans for reorganized Assam increased from Rs 25.77 and Rs 44.23 to Rs 68.92 and Rs 87.88 between 1973-74 and 1978-79 as against averages of Rs 15.94 and Rs 25.96 to Rs 37.10 and Rs 38.01 respectively.

Central Projects

When Central investments in industries and infrastructure are taken into account, it reaffirms rather than nullifies the finding. More than 80 per cent of Assam's

sizable public sector investment during 1971-72 to 1978-79 was either in Centrally shared projects or from the Centre. Central investments account for around 56 per cent of the State's total public and private sector industrial investment. Among the bigger Central projects launched since 1971-72 are the Rs 300-crore Bongaigaon petro-chemical complex, the Rs 35-crore Oil India pipeline, a Rs 15-crore paper mill at Jogighopa, the Rs 72-crore first phase of the Namrup unit of the Fertiliser Corporation which will be Asia's biggest, and a Rs 11-crore sugar mill in Cachar.

Assam also accounts for more than 7.5 per cent of the country's metre gauge tracks. It had 2.66 kilometres of metre gauge railway for every 100 square kilometres in 1976-77 against the all-India average of only 0.8 kilometres. Taking all gauges into consideration, Assam boasts 2.79 kilometres of railway per 100 square kilometres against the all-India figure of only 1.85 kilometres. Though Assam occupies 2.4 per cent of India's area, and notwithstanding topographical constraints, it possesses 3.62 per cent of the country's total railway system. The National Highway covered 1,374 kilometres in 1975. Telecommunication services have also improved significantly. The entire northeast had only 13 telephone exchanges at the beginning of the First Plan. There were 192 in 1976, of which 132 (68.75 per cent) are in Assam.

Neglect is not, therefore, confirmed. But if the overhead investment is not enough to generate a take-off we must search for the reason in the country's economic failures and in constraints on the Centre's limited resources. Only if neglect means not getting whatever a State needs can Assam complain. Not otherwise. If the Centre's performance in Assam is compared with that of the State authorities, the picture would be disappointing, though this does not mean that the Assamese do not have other reasons for complaint.

[31 Dec 80, p 8]

[Text] Concluding his examination of Assam's problems, Susanta Krishna Dass admits that settlers from Rajasthan and Bihar, as well as Nepalese and East Bengal Hindus, dominate the State's agriculture, commerce, industry and white collar jobs. [as published] But he deplores periodic attempts to give a political colouring to the legitimate sense of economic deprivation; and claims that allegations of illegal immigration for foreigners, levelled only to penalise people who have brought success to Assam, will further complicate the issue.

It may be asked of the agitation in Assam: is the problem of "foreign nationals" the real bone of contention or is it a manifestation of some other cause that lies deeper still? The answer is that the agitation is the political expression of the economic deprivation which Assamese have experienced due to heavy immigration since the late 19th Century.

The way in which leaders of the agitation interpret the term "foreign nationals" and the method by which they determine the number of "foreign nationals" indicate that the terms "foreign nationals" and immigrants are used synonymously, though Bengali Hindu refugees from East Bengal and Nepalese are pinpointed. Immigration is a deep-rooted problem for Assam. If the proportion of immigrants to indigenous people is taken as the criterion of assessing the weightage of immigration it will be

found that next only to Brazil, Assam as a geographical region bears the heaviest impact of outsiders. Also, among Indian States, it has accommodated the largest proportionate number of people from elsewhere. Assam's immense economic potential--huge natural resources, tea and timber, large areas of cultivable wasteland, unexplored trade and commerce--has always invited outsiders. A heavy density of population and excessive pressure on land in neighbouring East Bengal, and exposure to long international borders, intensified the trend. Truncation of the major part of Sylhet district through the plea of a referendum during Partition gave an extra fillip to one-way traffic.

Main Immigrants

Chronologically, the main immigrants into Assam have been (i) tea garden labourers, (ii) East Bengal peasants, (iii) the Nepalese, (iv) Hindu refugees from East Pakistan, and (v) people from Rajasthan and Bihar. All these newcomers possessed an inherent superiority in different economic activities, and by virtue of that secured a sound economic footing in their respective fields of mastery. On the other hand, according to the 1951 Census, the original people of Assam were characterised by an "absence of adventurism" and the "lack of individualistic temperament"; their entire way of life made the influx possible.

As a result, agriculture, the primary sector of the economy, has virtually passed to East Bengal cultivators who migrated between 1891 and 1947. Almost all these people--their number is about 27 lakhs or 15 per cent of today's total population--have become peasant proprietors. An additional attraction for these cultivators was Assam's ryotwari land tenure system which offered them a refreshing change from the permanent settlement of East Bengal where peasants were either sharecroppers or, in some cases, almost bonded labourers. Initially, these cultivators served the feudal exploitative interest of the Assamese landed aristocracy. In addition to their prolific skill as cultivators, they were blessed with a rare entrepreneurial quality which was ideally suited for land ownership and family farming.

Instinctively land-hungry, they entered into a system of land-wage contracts with absentee landlords instead of money-wage contracts. This strategy gradually made them owners of vast areas under crops. They fought all the topographical odds of Assam, the ravages of flood and deluvion, soil erosion and earthquake; and they survived its epidemics--kalazar malaria, dysentery, influenza and the like. When Nowgang was denuded of people by the kalazar epidemic of 1891-1901, they filled the vacuum and then transformed the district into the granary of Assam.

With their East Bengal background of proficiency in jute growing, they also introduced the fibre to Assam after Partition, so that the State now accounts for between 16 and 20 per cent of India's total jute. With substantial agricultural surpluses at their command, they then bought small and submarginal farms snatched off by poor farmers. Assam's agricultural stability rests on the enterprise, initiative and labour of this class of immigrants.

Effective control of the secondary sector is shared by immigrants from elsewhere in India. Their number is now around 24 lakhs, or 13 per cent of the State's population. The commercial and industrial leadership has passed into the hands of Marwaris who have also acquired most of the sterling tea companies. The lack of

domestic accumulation of capital and the poor entrepreneurship of indigenous people (barring a microscopic few in tea) made the transformation easier. "An important reason for the poor state of industrialization of the State" observed the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in a study of Assam, "is that the corporate sector is mainly in the hands of immigrants who tend to take the profits out of the State." So suffers capital accumulation, the prime mover of economic civilization. Herein lies the reason why, when other limbs of the nation's body-economic are growing even if not to the desired strength, Assam is ailing.

Labour Market

The labour market is also monopolised by immigrants. Tea garden workers are almost entirely Adivasis imported by the British between 1872 and 1951. This work force has more than six lakhs of bona fide dependents, but the door is completely closed to new entrants. Also, not very exalted laborious jobs like portering, rickshaw pulling, brick making and manual work on construction sites in the Brahmaputra Valley are done by hardworking Biharis.

The activities of the Nepalese are well known. They man the services--the Assam Rifles in particular--and undertake most of the bottom level watch and ward duties. They are the legendary durwans, their faithfulness being above suspicion. Many Nepalese also now work as woodcutters, graze cows and run private dairies.

Hindu refugees from East Pakistan can be found in a variety of vocations. The land-oriented among them have settled down in agriculture. But middle class people, being uprooted from ancestral homes, have concentrated on professions of skill. They strive for competitive employment and, on the whole, are more successful than indigenes in selection tests. It is a grim truth that the late-to-blossom educated Assamese middle class, striving for jobs in the administration and in various public services, faces powerful competition from the already entrenched Bengali middle class. Numerically, the educated Assamese middle class has emerged as an effective force only since Gauhati University was started in 1947. Little wonder then that between 1969 and 1977 the number of unemployed educated Assamese increased from around 19,000 to 99,000, the net rate of increase being 421 per cent. So arises an immediate confrontation between the educated Bengali middle class and its Assamese equivalent. It is not surprising, therefore, that today we find the Assamese middle class, more particularly its youth and students, spearheading the agitation.

It emerges, therefore, that immigrants have virtually dispossessed the Assamese from all the major sectors of the State's economy. Assamese leaders apprehended the problem long ago but, assuming that control of political power would be enough to resist encroachment, concentrated on tightening their grip over the State's affairs. The political support they received from sizable groups of immigrants made the leadership complacent. Being more interested in survival and livelihood, immigrants, on the other hand, attended even more diligently to their vocations. As a result, economic control gradually passed into their hands.

Real Problem

The sense of frustration created by this deprivation has provoked periodic explosions for many decades. But Assam's feeling of economic grievance has always been

ventilated politically. Protests against the power exercised by immigrants has, therefore, become a regular pre-Census phenomenon. The current disturbances are the most desperate so far to solve ancient economic problems through political mobilization.

The anxiety and frustration of which the Assamese complain are not unfounded. But the problem is of the State's indigenes losing their economic--not ethnic or cultural--identity. As during earlier upheavals however, agitation leaders present it as a political problem. They complain that immigration is threatening their linguistic and ethnic life. This political apprehension is not factually correct. On the contrary, immigration has actually helped the Assamese to strengthen their political hold over the State. Almost the entire immigrant community--barring the Bengali Hindu middle class--now describes itself as Assamese-speaking in Census forms. As a result, from only 22 per cent of the State's population and 0.33 per cent of the country's in 1911, the Assamese stood at 61 per cent and 1.63 per cent respectively in 1979. This numerical strength would not have been possible without reinforcements from outside.

But the real problem being economic, it needs to be tackled economically before it is too late. Repeated attempts to denounce a huge number of bona fide immigrants as "foreign nationals" will complicate rather than help to resolve Assam's difficulties because no constitutional authority--Parliament, the Union Cabinet or the Supreme Court--can disregard historical reality. Legal as well as conventional wisdom, tempered with compassionate political understanding of the background to and consequences of Partition, must determine the constitutional status of immigrants who cannot be branded as "foreign nationals" simply because they have succeeded in the economic sphere, and have contributed substantially to the economic growth of Assam.

CSO: 4220

INDIA

RISE REPORTED IN 1980 WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jan 81 p 15

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 9.—The wholesale price index rose by 1.1% during January-December, 1980, compared to 0.3% during January-December 1979, report PTI and CNS.

The official price index for "all commodities" (base 1976-77=100) stood at 126.1 (provisional) during the week ended December 27, 1980 which was around the same level as in the previous week.

With this, the monthly index which declined by 1.4% during November 1980, fell further during December by 0.6%.

The weekly index for the last week of December rose marginally by 0.3 points to 126.1 points (base 1976-77), mainly due to an increase in the index for food articles by 1.4%. Hikes in the prices of kandi seed, raw rubber, groundnut and tiger seed also pushed the index.

While the index for metals, alloys and metal products rose by 0.1%, and of food products was up marginally, that of food articles declined by 0.1%.

Remained unchanged were the indices for minerals, fuel, power, light and lubricants, beverages, tobacco and tobacco products, textiles, paper and paper products, leather and leather products, rubber and rubber products, chemicals and chemical products, non-metallic mineral products, machinery and transport equipment and miscellaneous products.

CSO: 4220

VICE PRESIDENT OPENS FIRST SPONGE IRON PLANT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] Kothagudem, December 31 (UNI): India's first sponge iron plant using entirely non-coking coal was inaugurated today by the Vice-President, Mr. M. Hidayatullah, at Paloncha, 20 km. from here.

The commissioning of the demonstration plant marks a breakthrough in steel technology.

The Union minister for steel and mines, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, speaking on the occasion said a decision would be taken soon whether to set-up raw material-based large-scale sponge iron plants or go in for smaller plants to overcome transport problems.

He said import of steel melting scrap to meet the needs of mini-steel plants could not be a permanent solution to the problem of scrap shortage. Sponge iron as a substitute for steel scrap was, therefore, of great significance.

Mr. Mukherjee announced on the occasion an ex-gratia payment of 15 days' salary to the workers of Sponge Iron India Ltd.

Mr. Hidayatullah said country's economy was at a critical stage. It was, therefore, necessary to direct all efforts towards economising in the consumption of petroleum products, besides conserving the resources of coking coal which, at the present estimates, could last only another 50 years. The sponge iron plant, therefore, assumed great importance.

Sponge Iron India Limited is a joint venture of the government of India and the government of Andhra Pradesh and had come about with the active collaboration of the United Nations Development Programme and the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

The demonstration plant will turn out 30,000 tonnes of sponge iron annually. It will also operate a well-equipped and staffed laboratory when specialised facilities are available for conducting studies on laboratory bench scale testing and investigations on physical and metallurgical characteristics of various raw materials.

Training will figure prominently at Kothagudem, forming part of the Singareni coal complex.

Dr. Abdel Rahman Khane, executive director of UNIDO, said the plant would open out a promising route for many developing countries faced with identical raw materials situations for development of their steel industry.

He said it would usher in a new era of technical and economic cooperation among the developing countries.

Labour Relations

The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr. T. Anjiah, said good labour relations in Andhra Pradesh created an atmosphere necessary for industrialisation. There were, however, some elements which tried to create trouble, especially in public-sector units.

He said: "Criticism is very easy these days. Some people want to achieve leadership by criticising and instigating people."

Mr. Anjiah said the Nagarjuna fertiliser plant at Kakinada was bogged down in controversies but there was no question of giving it up. He favoured cancellation of licences of those parties which did not set up units even after a lapse of reasonable time so that others could promote them.

The state minister for industry, Mr. N. Janardhan Reddy, urged the Union government to increase the quantum of compensation being paid for land acquired for Visakhapatnam steel plant. He pointed out that compensation was fixed at 1965 rates.

CSO: 4220

NARAIN SINGH SPEAKS TO LOCAL MINISTERS GROUP

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Dec 80 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 29

The Union Minister for Works and Housing, Mr. Bhubo Narain Singh today expressed himself against State Governments creating bodies with functions parallel to those of local bodies.

"Whatever may be the justification for creating parallel functional agencies, this trend does not represent an integrated outlook on our part towards the development of local bodies", he said, while inaugurating the meeting of the Central Council for Local Government and Urban Development here.

The meeting attended by Ministers in charge of Local Self-Government, Urban Development and Housing, was told by Mr. Bhubo Narain that it was paradoxical that while local bodies were considered essential for democracy, the State Governments had tended to create parallel functional agencies.

According to Mr. Singh, a feeling of mutual distrust still pervaded the relationship between the State Governments and local bodies.

He also regretted that adequate delegation of powers and devolution of resources by the State Governments had not taken place in favour of local bodies and wherever they had been made they had remained unutilised by the local bodies.

Mr. Singh said that urban local bodies had to be equipped to perform efficiently in view of the role expected for them under the new urbanisation policy which sought to reduce migration to metropolitan centres and promote development of small and medium towns. He referred to the proposal of the Centre to take up development of 200 towns with an average investment of Rs. one crore per town and said the scheme had not gained sufficient momentum.

Mr. Singh exhorted the State Governments to provide sufficient funds for improvement of slums in urban areas. An estimated 50 million slum-dwellers would have to be provided with basic amenities by March 1985, he added. He also urged them to draw up policies to provide to each income

group houses within its paying capacity. The private sector could be offered incentives to make investment on housing projects.

The Tamil Nadu Government has drawn up an ambitious plan of constructing two lakh houses in rural areas during the five-year plan period of 1980-85 and has secured increased financial assistance from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation for the same.

In a note to the meeting of the Central Council, the State Government urged the HUDCO to raise assistance from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of the project cost.

The State Government was represented at the meeting by Mr. S. Raghavanandan, Labour Minister and Mr. Muthuram, Special Representative here.

Initially it had been planned to construct only one lakh houses but the target had been doubled due to overwhelming demand from the rural people for loans to construct houses. Under the scheme, about 41,774 houses have been completed and 19,012 are under various stages of construction as on October 31, 1980.

So far, the HUDCO has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 106.69 lakhs for the construction of 16,500 houses under this project. But the amount has not been released yet as the HUDCO is insisting on the State Government making the entire provision in the budget towards 50 per cent of the project cost as its matching contribution. The State Government has provided for Rs. 200 lakhs only.

It is contended by the State Government that the HUDCO is giving assistance to the tune of 70 per cent of project cost in respect of urban housing and there is no justification for limiting it to 50 per cent in the case of rural housing.

The State Government has also demanded 100 per cent Central grant for programmes of slum improvement and for loans given to landless in rural areas for house-plot.

MINORITIES PANEL HEAD SPEAKS TO PRESS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] Calcutta, January 1.

The home ministry's high-power panel on minorities has, in its interim report to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, suggested that one-third of all directors of public-sector and government undertakings to be nominated from among the minorities and weaker sections of society.

Speaking at a press conference here today, the panel chairman, Dr. Gopal Singh, said not one among the 2,000 such incumbents belonged to the Muslim community.

Even if this could not be done, his suggestion was that the home ministry should have a monitoring cell, looking into reports to be submitted by these organisations every six months on the composition and break-up of newly-recruited persons. This could act as a check on denial of what legitimately should be the level of representation of the minorities.

Otherwise, he feared, misgivings about minorities being denied of their rights would persist. The interim report was indicative of "our thinking". Generally their task was to go into disabilities of the weaker sections and recommend remedies.

Old Prejudices

He agreed with a questioner that basically the problem was economic and the panel would like to suggest how people of the weaker sections could be ensured of facilities and opportunities, overcoming old divisions and prejudices.

In the course of their tour of different states, they had come across "thousands of cases of discrimination" and denials, on such pleas as one candidate could speak English better than another or one had a better personality," but these were all subjective assessments.

Minorities must be made to feel that they also belonged to the mainstream of the nation by giving them justice and making it appear that this was being done.

It was one thing to allot land to a scheduled caste person and quite a difficult proposition to ensure his possession and input requirements.

It might be necessary also, for example, to pay stipend not only to a school-going child but to its parents as well to check drop-outs.

Dr. Singh would suggest that at least 40 per cent of the sixth plan outlay should be earmarked for areas inhabited by backward people, for the sake of development of industry, irrigation and power supply facilities, in particular.

CSO: 4220

JUNGLE WARFARE SCHOOL MAY REMAIN IN MANIPUR

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 31 Dec 80 p 9

[Text] Silchar, Dec. 30.--The Counter-insurgency and Jungle Warfare School at Vairengte, at the foothills of Mizoram, may be moved to another location closer to a railhead. At present, the nearest railhead is at Silchar.

Haflong, headquarters of the North Cachar Hills district of Assam, was considered some years ago when political opinion in Mizoram perhaps favoured such a move. There has been a sea change in Mizoram in the intervening years and never before has there been such cordial relations between the security forces and the Mizo public. Vehement critics of the security forces admitted to this reporter in Aizawl that the relations were becoming progressively healthier.

In fact, the outgoing GOC, Major-General Mehta, was given affectionate farewell by the Chief Minister, Brigadier Sailo, his Cabinet colleagues, public leaders and a host of others in Aizawl last week.

Shifting the location is likely to be opposed vigorously by the people of Vairengte and the surrounding villages, who had come to depend upon the centre for medical and other benefits. Haflong is again in the reckoning; the earlier attempts were beset with difficulties over land acquisition proceedings and differences with the North Cachar Hills district council.

Meanwhile, Manipur has expressed keen interest in having the school which is regarded as the biggest of its type in South-east Asia and rated high professionally. Officers from Malaysia, Ceylon, Iraq, Kenya and several other countries have done courses at the school.

The Manipur Chief Minister, Mr Bishang Keishing, has formally offered to provide land around Jiribam, in Manipur South district. The area has thick jungle cover. The Army Chief left Imphat this morning after discussions with Mr Keising. The Army chief visited Imphal and Gauhati to review the anti-insurgency operations and be briefed by his top commanders in the field. He led a team of top brass, including the GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, the Director of Military operations.

He told reporters that the back of the insurgency in Manipur had been broken, "his boys" had done well. But pressure had to be maintained. The operations would continue, although there would be some reorganization, as opposed to thinning out.

The Eastern Command jungle training school of 1967 was the ad hoc forerunner of the Counter-Insurgency School, which took permanent shape in 1970; both owed much to Sam Manekshaw.

It runs courses of varying duration and specialization for officers and men at different levels. Almost all the battalions currently deployed in Mizoram or elsewhere have had their reorientation at Vairengte; the turnover averages six to seven battalions in a year.

CSO: 4220

INDIA OFFERS INGOTS, SLABS TO EAST BLOC

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Dec 80 p 16

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 28. India has offered one lakh tonnes of steel ingots to the Soviet Union and is exploring export of ingots and slabs to Bulgaria and Romania in a bid to reduce the stockpile of these items in the public sector steel plants.

The stocks of ingots and slabs rose to 7.5 lakh tonnes and 1.2 lakh tonnes respectively as on August 1, 1980 due to severe restrictions in power supply and maintenance in the availability of gas and fuel to the rolling mills because of drastic cuts in coke-oven pushings.

To dispose of the piled up stocks profitably, it has been decided to convert most of the ingots into saleable pig iron. A portion of these will be reduced to slab sizes and cut to channels for conversion into saleable steel through re-rollers using their spare capacity. Negotiations are also on with some countries for its export.

The stockpile of ingot and slabs has

restricted the supply of saleable steel to the domestic consumers and has put severe financial strains on the plants. The additional burden is estimated at Rs. 23 per tonne per month if the accumulated stock is left unconverted into saleable steel.

During the four months ending December 1, 1980, the stock of ingot has been reduced from 7.5 lakh tonnes to 6.2 lakh tonnes.

Slabs are being offered to customers both in Government and private sectors including irrigation departments.

Apart from regulating the ingot stock, efforts are being made to maximize the production of pig iron to meet the domestic demand. As a result, its production during April-November 1980 in the integrated steel plants was 8.97 lakh tonnes, against the target of 8.34 lakh tonnes. This has also helped in restraining the build-up of ingot stock.—

CSO: 4220

TAMIL NAUD NAXALITE LEADER REPORTED KILLED

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Vellore, Dec. 28.

Kannamani, said to be a top naxalite leader of Tamil Nadu, responsible for organising the extremist movement in Dharmapuri and Tirupattur areas, was killed in an encounter with police this morning on the Madakadappa hills, about 10 km from Vaniyambadi.

Police sources described this as a major breakthrough in their efforts to put down naxalite activity in the Tirupattur-Dharmapuri area, as Kannamani was one of the founder-leaders of the movement whose school of thought was annihilation.

Police acted on the basis of information given by the villagers, who go to the hills daily for firewood, that there had been stealthy movement on the hills for some time by unknown persons.

Mr. W. I. Dawaram, DIG, Vellore Range, who had returned only last night from Madras, personally organised the raid and reached the hills in the small hours of the morning with a special police party. [as published]

When the party was climbing the hill it was surprised by sudden firing from the opposite direction from behind the boulders. Six police personnel sustained pellet injuries.

The police party took position immediately and returned the fire for some time. When things became calm, the area was combed and one person was found with gun shot wounds. [as published] He was brought to the Vaniyambadi Government Hospital, where he was declared dead. Later, with the help of photographs in the police station, the victim was identified as Kannamani.

The Sub-Collector of Tirupattur conducted the inquest.

Activity Shifted

Mr. Dawaram later told newsmen at Vaniyambadi that the naxalites had now shifted their activity to Madakadappa hills as it was located on the Tamil Nadu-Andhra border for a stretch of about 50 km. This was the second encounter in North Arcot in which the naxalites had used guns. In previous encounters they had used only country-made bombs.

So far in North Arcot eight naxalites had been killed in encounters and three in the August 6 blast.

'Farm Worker'

Thirty-year-old Kannamani, who hailed from Murasapet village near Barur and had studied up to SSLC, was a close associate of Tamilvananan, another naxalite leader. They had spread the extremist movement in the Dharmapuri-Tiruppattur area since early seventies. [as published]

According to police records, they masterminded several murders and decoities in the area. Kannamani belonged to the group which was for mass annihilation of those who stood against revolution.

He first came to Kavapattarai village near Tiruppattur in early '70s, calling himself Raju and engaged himself as a farm worker. He initiated Anbu of that village into the movement and stayed in his house for some months. [as published] Later he switched over his activity to Koodapatti, where he organised the movement among the Harijans. These villages lie in a trough between Elagiri-Javathi hills where Kannamani conducted a number of classes and mobilised Harijan farm workers.

The first double murder case in Koodupatti took place in 1978 involving a naxalite hand.

Though initially he acted as a link between the North Arcot and Dharmapuri naxalite groups, Kannamani parted company with Tamilvananan in recent years and formed a separate group for himself. His close associates, Anbu, Eruttupachai, Nondi Palani, are still at large.

CSO: 4220

YOUTH CONGRESS(I) UNITS TO BE REORGANIZED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Dec 80 p 9

[Text]

SRINAGAR, Dec. 28.—The State units of the Youth Congress (I) all over the country are being dissolved and reorganized by February 20 next year, to revitalize the organization.

Announcing this at a Press conference here today the president of All India Youth Congress (I), Mr Gulam Nabi, said this was necessary because most of the office bearers had reached the age of 35. He said observers had been sent to 18 States, excluding U.P., Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Nagaland, to reorganize the units there and new committees would be announced in these States by January 30. In the other States, including Jammu and Kashmir new committees would be announced by February 30.

Priority would be given in the election or nomination of office bearers of all State, district and block level committees to those Youth Congress (I) workers and leaders who stood by us during the Janata rule and went to jail to defend the party interests. He said new entrants would not be given any key post in the party. He said that during the Janata rule more than 800,000 Youth Congress (I) workers were jailed to safeguard the political interests of this party.

Mr Nabi said soon after the formation of the new Youth Congress

(I) committees, a membership drive would be launched so that proper elections at all levels could be held by end of 1981.

The main thrust of his party's future programme would be on Sanjay Gandhi's five-point programme, which includes an anti-dowry campaign to eradicate casteism and communalism and other socio-economic evils. He said if any Youth Congress (I) office bearer or worker accepted dowry he would be immediately expelled from party.

Mr Nabi expressed his deep concern over recent "ugly" incidents in some parts of the Kashmir Valley when some National Conference members of the State Assembly and their workers publicly humiliated, abused and attacked Congress (I) workers and their leaders. He said neither the Congress (I) nor its youth wings would be cowed down by the threats and intimidation of the ruling party workers but would continue to play the role of the Opposition to ventilate the people's grievances and problems which Sheikh Abdullah's Government had failed to tackle.

KERALA TO PROCEED WITH CAUVERY PROJECTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Dec 80 p 11

[Text]

TRIVANERIM, Dec. 29.

Giving a resume of the discussion held at Madras on Saturday on the sharing of the Cauvery waters, the Kerala Chief Minister, Mr. E. K. Nayanar, informed the State Assembly on Monday that Kerala had made it clear at the conference that there was no necessity to effect any change in the understanding reached between the States in 1976.

The Minister in charge of Inter-State Waters, Mr. R. Balakrishnan Pillai said that Karnataka's attitude now was to create hurdles to Kerala's programmes.

Therefore, Kerala would go ahead with its own projects like Banasuramangal and Athappadi in the basin.

The Union Minister, Rao Bhendra Singh had been informed of the State Government's decision, and he had agreed with it.

Mr. Balakrishnan Pillai's reply came when the CPI leader and former Chief Minister, Mr. P. K. Vasudevan Nair, said Kerala should consider some practical steps for utilising the Cauvery waters as a final settlement was eluding them.

In a prepared statement, the Chief Minister gave a gist of the discussion at Madras.

1976 Understanding

At the Chief Ministers' conference convened in 1976 called by the then Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, some understanding had been reached on the sharing of the Cauvery river waters.

A committee of the representatives of the States was constituted for the

creation of a Cauvery River Waters Authority.

There was an understanding about the quantum of water available and also the quantity utilised by the different States. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka should reduce the quantity used by them, and the surplus should be shared by Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

An expert committee was also constituted to assess the surplus after such use by the States.

Though the work of these committees began, the objective raised by Tamil Nadu to the understanding reached on the ground that it was taken during the President's rule in that State, brought the proceedings to a standstill.

Tamil Nadu's objection was that the statistics on water availability and use related to a period when the water situation was very bad.

In 1978, three conferences were convened by the Union Irrigation Minister. Kerala and Karnataka had agreed at these conferences that further steps could be taken on the basis of the 1976 understanding. But, no progress could be made.

However, Karnataka too changed its attitude at the conference held in September this year at New Delhi and at Madras on December 27.

According to Karnataka, the water available in the Cauvery would be much more than what was stated in the 1976 understanding and the entire issue should be reviewed in detail.

The water available in the river was not sufficient to meet the needs of the basins. So it could not be diverted from there.

As the 1976 understanding mentioned about the utilisation of the surplus water available, Kerala said further talks could be held on that basis.

There was also no need to change the present understanding that the respective States could decide now best the share of each could be utilised.

It was also made clear at the conference that the projects in the basins were not taken up by the Kerala Government for the reason that these areas were formerly in Madras State.

Kerala, therefore, should now be permitted to go ahead with the projects.

The Union Agriculture Minister also said at the conference that the 1976 understanding should be the basis for discussion.

Those having fresh suggestions should inform the Union Government and the other State Governments about their suggestions before January 26, 1981. Further discussion would be held in February.

CSO: 4220

DEFENSE OFFICIAL VISITS AIR FORCE STATION

Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Jan 81 p 12

[Text]

Mr. Shriyug Paul, Minister of State for Defence, arrived here on Monday from Delhi on a two-day visit to acquaint himself with the working of some of the major defence installations around Madras.

From the airport he drove straight to the IAF station, Tambaram, and spent an hour there. Members of the senior staff were introduced to the Minister by Air Commodore K. Subramaniam, Officer Commanding.

The Minister was briefed at the Flying Instructors School by Group Captain N. N. Upadhye, and at the Aero-Engine and Airframe Hangars by Wing Commander P. V. R. Rao, Commanding Officer, Mechanical Training Institute.

Mr. Paul evinced keen interest in the running model of an Orpheus-701 engine. He got into the cockpit of a Karan jet trainer aircraft and enquired about its performance. He also watched the working of a detached engine of the HT-2 trainer aircraft mounted on a workbench. The main features of the Ajit (Gnat) and MIG-21 aircraft were also explained to the Minister.

Earlier, on arrival from Delhi, Mr. Paul was received at the airport by Maj. Gen. R. S. Pantu, CEC, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala areas. Air Commodore K. Subramaniam and other officers representing the three Services, Mr. K. P. A. Menon, Defence Secretary, accompanied the Minister.

Mr. Paul later visited the Officers Training School (OTS), St. Thomas Mount.

CSO: 4220

REGIMENT'S FITNESS HIGHLIGHTED ON ARMY DAY

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

The average man's concept of the Army is very often that of a set of brave, disciplined persons guarding the nation's frontiers on the chilly heights of the Himalayas or keeping peace in run-down areas.

The fading embers of patriotism are stirred briefly in times of war. With the return of peace all is forgotten and one rarely hears or cares to know about the people who sacrifice everything, including their lives, for the country.

Army day, which is celebrated every year on January 15, provides an occasion for the people and the army to come closer and get to know each other. It was on this day in 1949 that Gen. K. M. Cariappa became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

Army exercises near Hyderabad recently showed how the Army operates under war conditions.

Always Prepared

The Army's preparedness to meet any emergency at short notice and its ability to move its men and weapons on the face of heavy enemy attack were among the many aspects highlighted.

The regiment of Artillery deployed a field battery to provide fire support to the infantry. The field battery, consisting of six guns, each manned by an officer and six men, is deployed in just about 10 minutes, covered by a camouflage net in a trench.

During war conditions the regiment has OP (observation post) officers, who communicate with the gun position officer only some 50 metres away by radio or telephone.

Once the enemy position is located, the OP officers work out ground reconnaissance of the area from the map and pass on the information to the control post. The gun position officer works out technical details such as range.

The guns the regiment has are an

improvement over its earlier ones. They have enhanced the technical and tactical capabilities appreciably.

Transcends Narrow Corridor

The regiment's motto is "Sarvatra, Isha-o-Idha" (meaning omnipresent, honour and glory).

It was astonishing to learn that the entire setting of the deployment of the new gun position was created overnight.

Another item of interest was the demonstration of a 118 mm. recoilless gun (RCL) mounted on a jeep crossing a water obstacle. The RCL, it was said, was a veritable nightmare to any enemy tank. "There is no tank existing in the world which cannot be destroyed by this gun."

The RCL is the latest in the series first developed by the U.S. during the second World War. Though a vintage weapon, it is still used by many countries.

During a war, the Army faces many obstacles as rivers, lakes, where there are no bridges, the men and the weapons are taken across in rafts. The engineers select the site and the men construct the raft—a combination of two boats—in a short time.

The raft is powered by an outboard motor or peddled with oars.

Crossing of water obstacles is generally done during night to avoid detection by the enemy. Doing it in the face of enemy fire is hazardous.—Our Staff Reporter.

CPI(M) ISSUES RESOLUTION ON ASSAM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Dec 80 p 1

[Excerpt] Gauhati, Dec. 27 (PTI)--The CPI-M today urged the Assam agitation leaders to respond to the call of the Centre for resumption of talks without precondition.

In a resolution adopted at its session here the State committee of the party criticised the enforcement of the Press Act and demanded its immediate withdrawal.

The session in another resolution opposed all draconian legislations and police repression and said complicated socio-political issues like current Assam problem cannot be solved by repression and attacks on civil liberty.

They need political solution with the support of the people. Regrettably, the Government of Assam lost a whole year by political inaction and made no move to activate the people for a just solution.

The party urged the movement leaders to reconsider the whole matter and respond to the latest call of the Government for talks without any preconditions.

CSO: 4220

BENGAL COMMUNIST PARTIES PLAN JOINT ACTIONS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Dec 80 p 5

[Text] Calcutta, Dec 27—State CPI secretary Biswanath Mukherjee told the press today that in view of the mounting crisis and struggle of the people, particularly the kisans, the State CPI and CPI-M have decided to come closer. In order to forge this unity, both the parties have decided to set up a co-ordination committee to sort out differences, if any, and plan joint actions.

Mr Indrajit Gupta, along with some other CPI leaders, was present at the press conference.

Mr Mukherjee, however, added that his party led kisan sabha, while attempting to bring in all kisan organisations in a programatic platform, will launch a struggle for remunerative paddy price for the kisans. The CPI-led kisan sabha has demanded that the State Government should fix the price of paddy at Rs 130 per quintal, while the administration has fixed it at Rs 109, including bonus, per quintal.

He pointed out that even the CPI-M-led kisan sabha had demanded a higher paddy price. RSP-led Sanjukta Kisan Sabha also wants paddy price revision. Mr Mukherjee will hold discussion with the RSP leaders on this and other issues.

Mr Mukherjee stated that on this and other mass issues the CPI will hold discussions not only with the Left parties, but also try for a broad left-democratic consensus.

Without being a part of the Left front, Mr Mukherjee stated, his party will keep in closest touch with it on all vital matters.

CSO: 4220

SOVIET AMBASSADOR SPEAKS AT UN GROUP MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Dec 80 p 10

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in India Yuli M. Vorontsov on Saturday made a fervent appeal for world peace, in which former Rajya Sabha Chairman R. N. Mirdha and others joined him and sought immediate end to armament race which was jeopardising the human race itself.

United Nations Development Programme deputy resident representative in India Erling Densau, who inaugurated the national convention of the Indian Federation of United Nations' Association, said the world was spending something like two billion dollars annually on arms and that it was really disquieting that the developing nations too were getting into this rat race.

Mr Mirdha felt that the United Nations as the world peace body was losing some of its relevance since some of its resolutions on maintenance of peace were being flouted by many countries with impunity. [as published]

Thus, he said, there was a crying need of the world to resubscribe to the ideology and aims of the UN and the world should once again dedicate itself to the peace efforts of the world body.

Mr Vorontsov spoke about the similar Indo-Soviet approach to the global problems and how both the countries were earnest in their efforts to end the exploitation of the oppressed the world over.

In this connection, the Soviet Ambassador quoted the recent joint declaration of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev during the latter's visit to India. [as published]

Mr Vorontsov said his country was ready to come to an agreement with any country individually or on collective basis on arms limitation and divert the funds thus saved towards the economic development of the developing countries.

C80: 4220

CPI LEADER MUKHERJEE HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 28 Dec 80 p 6

[Text] The Communist Party of the Soviet Union does not interfere in the affairs of another Communist Party, the CPI leader, Mr Biswanath Mukherjee, said in Calcutta on Saturday. "I have seen, this for the past 10 or 15 years". The CPSU is very scrupulous about observing certain norms. Even if another Communist Party seeks advice on the plea of being inexperienced, the CPSU initially tries to avoid the issue. Only if a party insists, does it say a few words.

According to Mr Mukherjee, the CPSU followed this principle during bilateral talks with all Communist parties, whether it was friendly with them or not. This was how it differed from the Chinese Communist Party. Outsiders did not realize this, he said.

Mr Mukherjee, who was addressing a Press conference, denied that there had been any change in the CPI's attitude towards Mrs Gandhi after Mr Brezhnev's visit to India. He said the party was adhering to the National Council line by working for the unity of Left and democratic forces.

He said the CPI might support Mrs Gandhi on certain issues, like her policy of seeking friendship with the Socialist world or her efforts to check disruptive forces in Assam, but the overall attitude of the CPI was to replace her Government with one comprising Left and democratic forces.

Similarly, the CPI might oppose many policies and actions of the Left Front Government in West Bengal, but it would not want to replace it by a Government led by Mr P. C. Sen or Mr Barkat Ghani Khan Chaudhury.

The CPI leader said relations, between his party and the CPI(M) were improving. The earlier "stiffness" had gone. [as published] The CPI wanted cordial relations with all Left and democratic parties. But first the two Communist parties must come closer to each other.

This was necessary, according to Mr Mukherjee, because of several factors. For instance, the economic condition of the country was worsening. The common man had been hit by continually rising prices. In parts of the country, fissiparous tendencies had become apparent. Along with this, the Congress (I) had been adopting an authoritarian attitude. Speakers at the recent AICC(I) session had called for the establishment of a presidential form of Government and the ouster of the three Left Front Governments in the country, Mr Mukherjee added.

The peasant wing of the CPI has decided to start a movement demanding remunerative prices for paddy. A statement issued by the Krishak Sabha said paddy was being sold in several North Bengal districts at prices below those fixed by the Left Front Government. The State Government and the Food Corporation of India had not been able to set up an adequate number of purchasing centres.

CSO: 4220

LAWYERS' RESOLUTION OPPOSES PRESIDENTIAL RULE

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 28 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] Bombay, Dec. 27.--A "national convention of lawyers for democracy", organized here today as an unofficial adjunct to the BJP convention, has said in a resolution that the talk of imposing a presidential form of Government on the country "is totally irresponsible and irrelevant".

The resolution was moved by Mr Soli Sorabjee, former Solicitor-General. The convention was inaugurated by the former Chief Justice of India, Mr Justice J. C. Shah. It was presided over by Mr Ram Jethmalani. Mr Vajpayee, Mrs Vijaya Raje Scindia and Mr M. C. Chagla were among those who attended the convention.

According to Mr Sorabjee, the object behind the talk of a presidential system was really to have the judgment in the Keshavanand Bharati case reversed, because the verdict was a roadblock to the protagonists of the presidential form.

In a message to the convention, Mr Nani Palkhivala said it was not the right time to impose a change of system on the nation. The reasons were threefold. First, the whole country was in turmoil. Secondly, the people had a legitimate fear that if any presidential system was imposed by the politicians who had seen nothing wrong in the atrocities committee during the Emergency, it will be dictatorial type of system. Thirdly, there were several urgent reforms in the field of constitutional law which could be brought about without amending the Constitution.

Mr Justice J. C. Shah shared with the convention his grief that the country seemed to be drifting to the situation that prevailed in 1975.

PTI adds: Mr Justice Shah urged politicians to devise ways and means to improve the lot of the people rather than debate whether the country needed a parliamentary or presidential form of Government.

"It matters little whether there is a presidential or parliamentary form of Government in so far as it provides clean and honest administration for the benefit of the people", Mr Justice Shah said while inaugurating the convention.

Mr Justice Shah, who headed the commission of inquiry appointed by the Janata Government into the alleged atrocities during the Emergency, said he was anguished by the politicians' failure to provide even the basic amenities to the people during the past 33 years of independence.

The atmosphere in the country in 1975 was dismal. The events that followed in 1977 had given rise to the belief that the country was in for an era of clean and honest administration. But, Mr Justice Shah said, he was sorry to state that such hopes had been belied and the country had once again reached the 1975 stage.

The former Chief Justice said he often asked people what was wrong with the country.

"But people of my thinking still believe that the attitude of political corruption will disappear and a very clean administration, which was given to the country in 1977, will be restored", he said.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association has decided to organize an All-India Lawyers' Conference on liberty parliamentary democracy and the independence of the judiciary and the Bar on January 31 and February 1, 1981.

The response of lawyers throughout the country was encouraging, the association said in a statement made in Delhi today.

The theme of the conference had assumed national importance in the context of "men in responsible positions canvassing support for imposing the presidential system and the insistence of the Government to use repressive State machinery and detentions without trial extensively to suppress civil liberties," the statement added.

CSO: 4220

GULF STATES OFFER TO ASSIST GUJARAT INDUSTRY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Jan 81 p 6

[Text]

THE high-powered official team from Gujarat, led by the finance minister, Mr. Sanat Mehta, which visited some of the Gulf countries, has returned with encouraging offers for financial assistance to the tune of about \$ 500 million for setting up industries in the state.

The offers received from several corporations, private parties and leading industries in the United Arab Emirates will cover about 50 to 60 per cent of the total of about \$ 800 million required for setting up half a dozen projects, including a cement plant, a stainless steel tube plant, a sponge iron unit and chemical units.

The team visited Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah and discussed the offers with industrialists and other private parties prepared to invest in the

proposed projects. It also held discussions with the Abu Dhabi Area economic development fund authorities.

The proposed cement plant with a capacity of one million tonnes a year will be set up near Varanasi while the stainless steel tube plant with an annual production capacity of 50,000 tonnes as well as the 500,000 tonnes annual capacity sponge iron project will be set up near Rajira in south Gujarat.

A team of visitors from the UAE will come to the state to finalise the details of the projects and to acquaint themselves with the local situation and laws during the next two to three months. The first important visitor will be Mr. Ahmad Bakar, a leading industrialist from the UAE, who has offered a firm's share of the assistance. Mr. Bakar is due to reach here on Tuesday.

CSO: 4220

WRITER ANALYZES CURRENT STATE OF ECONOMY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 14.—The Government is claiming that the economy has "turned the corner" but there are too many signs of gloom to substantiate this as Mrs Gandhi completes one year in office. Despite the favourable monsoon in 1980 and the improvement in agricultural production that is expected to raise national income, there are too many danger signals to give rise to optimism.

What is really in progress is a holding operation and this will probably continue until the international and domestic constraints on the economy are ironed out. This may never be possible, if only because the major factor that has transformed short and long-term prospects is the considerable change in the terms of trade against India because of rising world oil prices.

Oil imports now account for more than 70% of the export earnings and have triggered inflation—and will continue to do so. The recent rise in petroleum prices and its impact on the general price level is sure evidence of this. Oil imports are also the main reason for the fall in foreign exchange reserves to around Rs 4,500 crores after a near continuous rise for nearly five years.

The reserves position is not critical as yet. It can even be argued that the expected fall of around Rs 1,400 crores in 1980-81, if borrowings from the International Monetary Fund of Rs 815 crores are not taken into account, is not excessive.

Oil and petroleum products have had to be imported to make up the loss of around four million tons of crude a year because of the agitation in Assam. If these imports had not been made the reserves may well have remained constant and could have even been taken as a pointer to the resilience of the balance of payments position.

The fact, however, is that the Asian agitation has affected the reserves position at a time when the trade deficit is expected to reach a record Rs 4,000 crores in 1980-81. The grim balance of trade position is largely a result of oil and other imports and a slower growth rate than the targeted 10% in exports.

BLEAK PROSPECTS

The long-term payments prospects are, therefore, distinctly bleak. The Government may well find it difficult to overcome the expected \$3.5 billion annual gap expected within four years without resorting to further borrowings from international institutions and capital markets. If the development process is not to be halted by the shortage of external resources.

This prospect is not considered undesirable, nor is it officially frowned upon now that policymakers are not averse to looking abroad for grants, aid or loans from any source. But there is a growing recognition of the need to boost exports. If the country is not to become excessively dependent on foreign sources and is to avoid cuts in imports of raw material and capital goods that would certainly retard industrialization.

At present, the indications that exports will rise to the required high level are not evident. This is because the strains on the economy are all too visible. If the growth in exports is to come from increased industrial production, the prognosis is even gloomier. The Ministry of Industry has claimed that there was a 7% rise in production in November and a 10% rise in December 1980 compared to the same months in the previous year and this is possibly a hopeful sign.

But the fact is that industrial production has not risen to the extent though possible earlier in the year after the monsoon proved to be bountiful. Until the second quarter of the financial year, industrial production was running well below even the previous year's bleak performance.

Any improvement in the last two or three months is unlikely to make a material difference. By the end of 1980-81, a rise of not more than 6% in industrial production is expected over the previous year's sharp drop in output. This is highly unsatisfactory.

The reasons for this are that the infrastructural constraints that plagued the economy in 1979-80 have not been removed. The crippling power shortage improved only marginally after hydel reservoirs were filled by the 1980 monsoon, but poor generation from the thermal and nuclear plants partially negated the gains. Power supply is not expected to rise by more than 10% in 1980-81 and will thus remain a major limiting factor on production.

The power crisis is of course, partly due to the vicious circle it has been caught in by the failure in coal production and railway movement, the two points which are constantly holding up attempts to improve infrastructure. Coal production has risen only marginally to 100 million tons but its quality remains doubtful while its transport remains hampered by the poor performance of the Railways which are burdened by as many as 18,000 "sick" wagons and whose equipment cannot be improved in the short run.

Compared to the previous year, only the labour situation has improved because of the remarkable fall by nearly 300% in man-days lost, although productivity has not risen at the same speed.

The redeeming feature is higher agricultural production, although this should be qualified by the fact that it was almost entirely due to the good monsoon and underlines the country's continuing dependence on weather. The improvement was also limited to foodgrain which is expected to reach a record 120 million tons or more, which is 17% higher than the revised figure of 107 million tons of the drought-hit year of 1979-80.

This has bolstered the food stocks again. These should reach a safe 18 million tons after the winter procurement is over. If all goes well, India may even export one million tons of foodgrain in 1961-62. This will be a real breakthrough and will help close the trade gap, although it remains to be seen if food exports remain a permanent feature and whether they will be politically acceptable when a large part of the population is at near starvation level.

But the foodgrain production continues to be erratic, with only an improvement in sugarcane. There is no sign that the heavy edible oil import bill will be eased because of better domestic production. Certainly the fertilizer consumption level remains low at 5.5 million tons, just slightly more than in the previous year, and must give rise to doubts about the projected foodgrain production figure of 132 million tons.

Nor is the price situation comfortable. Inflation has in the past two or three months shown signs of flattening out and it is possible that the financial year will end with an annual rate of just 12% or 13%. This is better than the 21% registered in the previous year but it is still high (although it is true that it is partly beyond the control of the Government since much of it is imported because of world oil prices).

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT PLANS CENSUS ON FARM WEALTH

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Dec 80 p 12

[Text] Madras, Dec. 28.

A nation-wide census covering agricultural and animal wealth will be undertaken by the Union Government in the next few years. Precise estimation of agricultural labour population, livestock population and their productivity will be done. Rural indebtedness will be dealt with in detail.

The census will serve as a practical guideline to eradicate poverty and improve the standard of living of the rural communities, said Rao Birendra Singh, Union Agriculture Minister.

The Minister was inaugurating the third national conference of the All India Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Technical Staff Federation at Valluvar Kottam here on Saturday.

The Minister said India with a high cattle population had a very low average production of milk. Veterinary field staff should divert their efforts to increase milk yield, he said.

Mrs. Gomathi Srinivasan, Tamil Nadu Minister for Animal Husbandry, said there was a wide gap between the availability and demand of milk, meat and eggs. This could only be narrowed by selective hybridisation of livestock, she said. Health cover and feed for livestock should be given more importance, she added.

Mr. Narayan Joshi, General Secretary of the Federation appealed to the Union Government to formulate guidelines for the pre-recruitment training for veterinary technical staff, to be organised by the State Governments. Organisation of in-service training programmes to improve the working standards of field veterinary service was also requested.

As an effective means to control the spread of contagious diseases among livestock and avoid malpractices in livestock production by middlemen, he suggested, that vaccination certificates and pedigree cards be made essential for livestock transaction.

Mr. Raj Kumar Dixit, President of the Federation, presided over the function.

CSO: 4220

IRANIAN DECISION UPSETS INDIAN TEA EXPORTERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Dec 80 p 1

[Text]

INDIAN tea exporters are upset over the Iranian Government's sudden decision to impose restrictions on the import of tea. Iran, which purchases about 10 million kg of tea from India every year, has all along been an important customer from the Indian point of view, since it purchased only quality tea.

But, the Iranian Government, it is officially learnt in Calcutta on Monday, has announced that henceforth it will not permit import of any tea valued higher than Rs 27 a kg c.i.f. The news has caused concern among exporters in Calcutta because licences had already been issued for export of Rs 2-crore worth of high quality tea valued on an average at Rs 40 a kg. Shipping space had already been booked for the consignment and the Iranian importers had also issued letters of credit in favour of the Indian exporters.

A number of exporters, affected by the Iranian restrictions, met the chairman of the Tea Board, Mr B. K. Gokarni, during the day to find a way out to solve the problem. The Tea Board, it is learnt, is in touch with the Indian economic counsellor in Teheran in its bid to help the Indian exporters. Attempts are being made to

persuade the Iranian Government to permit the shipment of, at least, those consignments of tea for which orders had already been placed.

It is learnt that similar restrictions had also been imposed on packet tea. The Food Control Department of the Iranian Government has recently notified that import of all kinds of food articles will receive priority over tea.

Meanwhile, official sources say that licences issued by the Centre for export of tea stood at 223 million kg from January 1 to December 26. It is felt that the country could have achieved a total export of more than 240 million kg during the year, but for the recent three weeks' disruption of tea export from Calcutta port because of the warehouse workers' agitation. The export licences issued during the same period last year amounted to 209 million kg.

The actual tea exports during January to November this year was 207 million kg, against 173 million kg exported during the corresponding period last year. Of the total export this year, 132 million kg was exported through Calcutta port. Only 100 million kg could be exported through Calcutta during January-November period last year, it is learnt.

FINANCE MINISTER, INDIA SEEKS FOREIGN FUNDS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Dec 80 p 10

[Text]

PARIS, Dec. 29.—India will encourage foreign investments and seek external loans for major economic development projects, the Union Finance Minister, Mr. Ramaswami Venkataraman, said in an interview published here today, reports Reuters.

Foreign investments will take different forms including transfer of technology, he said.

Mr. Venkataraman told the monthly business publication, Danielle Henebelle's International Letter that India would only borrow for projects.

"We have just floated a \$600 million loan for an aluminium project and it has been fully subscribed," he said. "Now we are going for another \$200 million for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission."

India's borrowing capacity is very much higher than its existing debt, he said.

Mr. Venkataraman said foreign investments would be placed under several different headings. "First, there are package projects such as a steel complex, where we will be

looking for transfer of technology, financing and so forth. Apart from steel there could be packages involving ammonia gasification and fertiliser plants. We are going in for these ammonia plants in a big way.

Part of the packages would be farmed out to Indian State-owned companies, Mr. Venkataraman said. "Likewise with the financing. We will say how much will come from external sources and how much we will raise ourselves."

The Minister said that at the moment he was thinking in terms of loan capital. "But if they want to come in on an equity basis, then it has to be negotiated," said, adding, "It is feasible."

Foreign companies are allowed to have up to 40% of the equity in those areas where they bring in some new technology," he said.

"They can have a larger amount of equity where the project is export-oriented. A company exporting 60% of its output can hold 51% of the equity and a company exporting its entire production can hold 74%."

CSO: 4220

BHARATIYA JANATA HOLDS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Arrivals in Samata Nagar

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Dec 80 pp 1, 5

[Text] The sprawling township of Samata Nagar at Bandra is symbolic of the impressive show the Bharatiya Janata Party has been able to stage within one year of its birth.

It was planned for 25,000 delegates, but by noon today 44,000 people had arrived at the venue of BJP's first all-India session and another trainloads (at least 2,000) were on the way. [as published] Besides, many were expected to come by road.

Arrangements have been made to house all and to feed 40,000 people. Considering the inadequacy, Mr. L. K. Advani, general secretary of the party, appealed to some of the visitors to take their food outside, if they could.

An air of festivity pervades the township, a bee-hive of activity, even while the leaders discuss the economic and political policies that would give it a distinct identity.

People in different attires, many carrying their bed-rolls and suitcases, sat outside the main gate, waiting to register themselves, even as the political resolution was being moved and seconded at the imposing pandal named after Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. More were arriving by buses and trucks. One could hear all the languages of the country, as people in groups moved about.

The Pandit Deendayal Sabhagriha, a pandal admeasuring 500 feet by 200 feet, is a striking feature of the township which has come up on 12 hectares of reclaimed land abutting Mahim Creek. The land has been taken on rent from the Bombay Housing and Area Development Board.

Behind the pandal are six neatly-arranged residential blocks, named after the Jhelum, the Ganga, the Brahmaputra, the Narmada, the Krishna and the Godavari. Each houses people from the area in which it runs. Each block (covering 7,100 square metres) is equipped with a kitchen, dining hall, snack bar and booths for security staff.

The working committee members are housed in Hiti Nagar, a separate block of 3,600 sq. mt. Nearly 10,000 women delegates are housed separately.

More about Township

A spokesman reeled off some more statistics about the township: it has 1,200 bathrooms and a similar number of sanitary blocks and 6,000 pillars to support the bamboo-gunny structures, including the pandal. Nearly 7,000 party workers are engaged in maintaining the service in the pandal. Three km. of waterlines, 1,000 water taps, 1,500 tube lights and electric supply of 600 Kw are provided. Besides, a one-km-long and 12-metre-wide road has been built.

Several stalls in the township are doing good business. Among the fast-selling items were different brands of bottled soft drinks. A sugarcane-juice vendor has also put up a stall. Some stalls sell cloth, including saris.

Vendors selling Bombay city guides do brisk business. So do fruit vendors outside. Vendors occupy places on either side of the road leading to the township, lending the place an atmosphere of a "mela."

The main gate, shaped like a lotus, the BJP symbol, stands 28 feet and is 60 feet wide. There is a lotus-shaped pond from which the flag-pole emerges and a map of India in relief inside. An imposing equestrian statue of Shivaji is kept at the entrance and a standing figure of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule at the dais in the pandal.

A huge picture of people on the march, led by a worker and a peasant raising their arms together, forms the backdrop to the dais on which the leaders sit cross-legged during sessions.

Opening Day's Session

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Dec 80 pp 1, 5

The first three-day all-India session of the Bharatiya Janata Party began here today with the president, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, declaring that the party was determined to achieve its goal of economic and social equality.

He told over 30,000 delegates assembled at the huge pandal, "Samatanagar", at the Bandra reclamation ground that "justice to the oppressed" should be the main slogan of the session. Nearly 44,000 delegates had turned up for the session by the morning, far in excess of the number of 25,000 expected by the organisers. Not all of them could be accommodated in the pandal where the opening session began at 9:30 a.m.

Later in the day, the delegates took out a huge procession from the venue of the session to Mahim and Shivaji Park. The procession culminated in the open session at Shivaji Park where Mr. Vajpayee delivered the presidential speech.

Correct Decision

In his speech at the inaugural session, Mr. Vajpayee strongly defended the decision of the former Jana Sangh to merge with the Janata Party and the subsequent move to form the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He said some people had told him that the decision of the Jana Sangh to join the Janata Party was not correct. The decision had been taken to safeguard democracy.

But his regret was that the Janata Party could not function effectively. Some of its leaders did not have organisational ability and though there was no membership drive, the issue of dual membership had been raked up.

He was happy with the progress made by the Bharatiya Janata Party which justified its formation. While the Jana Sangh had been able to muster a membership of 14 lakhs, the Bharatiya Janata Party had now reached a membership of nearly 25 lakhs.

At the outset, he said he was not quite happy over being made the party president because of the heavy responsibility he had to carry. However, he could not avoid the responsibility in view of the challenging situation.

Mr. Vajpayee briefly recounted the history of the Jana Sangh. The party's previous sessions in Bombay were held under unusual circumstances. In 1953, the party met soon after the death of its founder, Mr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, while the 1969 session followed the death of Mr. Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Referring to the large turn-out of delegates, he said they might experience difficulties during their stay, but the members were ready to face any situation and the party's fight was not merely for power.

Mr. Vajpayee said on this occasion the party remembered Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan who had died because of the pain caused by those who broke the Janata Party.

He recalled Mr. Narayan metaphorically telling him that the garden he had nurtured had withered away. However, Mr. Vajpayee said, "We can again work for the future." [as published]

Mr. Vajpayee was cheered by several delegates during his speech. When he declared in his Hindi speech "Bharat Ek Hai," a section of the gathered repeated the words.

Referring to the slogans hailing him as the leader, Mr. Vajpayee said he could understand their love for him. But the delegates should rather not raise such slogans and there should be no worshipping of any individual.

However, later some members selling copies of a Delhi weekly, KAMAL PRABHAT, outside the pandal were raising the slogan "Pradhan Mantriki Agali Bari, Atal Behari, Atal Behari." The slogan was also printed prominently in the weekly's front page along with a picture of Mr. Vajpayee.

/Mr. Vajpayee clarified that Mr. Nanaji Deshmukh was away because he was doing constructive work and not out of any differences./ [in boldface]

He also had praise for Rajmata Mrs Vijaya Raje Scindia who was sitting on the dais.

She had stood for her ideals and taken a political line quite different from the one taken by her son, he said.

Mr. Vajpayee told the gathering that people had great expectations from the Bharatiya Janata Party. The party itself had high hopes and its future was linked with the future of the country. He appealed to the members to extend their full co-operation in building a strong party.

Earlier, Mr. L. K. Advani, general secretary, and Mr. Ram Jethmalani, chairman of the reception committee, welcomed the delegates. A large number of women delegates, who had gathered in the pandal well before the proceedings began raised a number of slogans. These included "Atal Behari Age Badho, Hum Tumhare Saath Hai," "Bharatiya Naari Phool Nahin--Chingari Hai" and "Mahangai Rok Nahi Sakti Wo Sarkar Nikaami Hai." Mr. Advani also summed up in English Mr. Vajpayee's speech for the benefit of members who do not know Hindi.

Later, the session inclusively discussed draft resolution on the political situation. [as published] The resolution, moved by Mr. Sikandar Bakht and seconded by Mr. Yagna Dutt Sharma, strongly criticised the Central government for its "political and economic failures."

Mr. Bakht, in a forceful speech, entertained the gathering by quoting a number of Urdu couplets. He decried the bogey" of Pakistan attacking India. [as published] Mr. Bakht said not an inch of Kashmir would be given to Pakistan and that Pakistan could not dare attack India.

He quoted a report from the economic survey of India which pointed out that the Janata rule was unusual in respect of price stability.

Mr. Bakht alleged that Mrs. Indira Gandhi was trying to suppress the opposition and said she would not succeed in the effort.

He described Mr. A. R. Antulay's advocacy of the Presidential form of government as an exercise in flattery. He also criticised the Maharashtra government's handling of the farmers' agitation.

Draft Resolution

The draft political resolution says that in less than a year of Mrs. Gandhi's return to power, the country had been pushed to the brink of a precipice.

It says the law and order situation had deteriorated with policemen themselves indulging in rape and dacoity. It refers to the violence in Moradabad and the blindings in Bhagalpur, the "corruption and mounting social tensions, the demoralisation of the bureaucracy and the covert attempts to gag the press."

It blames the government's handling of the Assam problem and communal tensions. The resolution says the party will welcome a negotiated settlement in Assam to the satisfaction of the Assamese people. It demands early completion of a judicial inquiry into the Moradabad riots.

The resolution squarely blames Mrs. Gandhi for all the "perversions of law and paralyseing of the administration."

It warns the country against the "sinister designs" of the ruling party to replace the parliamentary system by the Presidential form of government so that Mrs. Gandhi can assume supreme powers as President for life.

It concludes by saying that "democracy is in danger and we shall defend it with all our might."

Earlier, while welcoming the delegates, Mr. Jethmalani, MP from the Bombay north-west constituency which includes the session venue, said the party's horoscope was excellent and it had a bright future. The session, he said, was being held nine months after the party was formed in April.

He said Mr. Vajpayee would play the same role as Gandhiji played against dictatorship. Mrs. Gandhi, he said, would meet with the same fate as of the British.

Vajpayee Opening Address

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Dec 80 p 1

[Text] The president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former external affairs minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, has charged the Congress (I) with undermining the national consensus on foreign policy which was evident in the past three decades.

He was delivering the presidential address at the open session of his party's national convention at Shivaji Park this evening. A mammoth crowd, including thousands of BJP members from all over the country, listened with rapt attention to Mr. Vajpayee's speech, delivered with usual flourish in Hindi.

In 1977, the Janata Party had fought the elections almost entirely on domestic issues and hence after the polls had emphasised the need for continuity in foreign policy. In the last Lok Sabha elections, however, the Congress (I) dragged foreign policy into the poll arena and made it a major plank of its campaign, Mr. Vajpayee said.

If India's relations with its immediate neighbours had "suddenly turned sour," it was because of the utterances of Congress (I) campaigners who told the voters that under the Janata rule "even small neighbours of ours are behaving arrogantly with us," Mr. Vajpayee alleged.

Big Brother Stance

By now reverting to the earlier big brother attitude towards the neighbours, the present government had wiped out in one year the gains of the Janata rule, he further alleged.

Referring to the reported win the goodwill of the neighbouring countries, Mr. Vajpayee said the charge was totally baseless. [as published] The Salal agreement with Pakistan was entered into on exactly the same terms as the predecessor government wanted to secure but could not. On the issue of sharing the Ganga waters, while in 1975, the treaty with Bangladesh gave India only 11,000 to 16,000 cusecs of water, the agreement finalised by the Janata government ensured augmentation of water supply to 20,500 cusecs, he pointed out.

He deplored the alleged acquiescence of India in the Soviet Union's "military intervention in Afghanistan, which has now become a virtual occupation of that country." India's stand on this issue had tarnished the country's image the world over and had isolated it completely from the neighbouring nations, the non-aligned group and the Islamic world, he claimed.

The recognition of the Kampuchean regime "propped by the Vietnamese army" had also created serious misgivings about the independence of the country's foreign policy, particularly among the south-east Asian countries, Mr. Vajpayee opined. Independent observers could not be blamed if they inferred that Indo-Soviet friendship was getting transformed into Indo-Soviet alignment. [as published] The people of India and all its political parties appreciated the importance of ties with Moscow and would like to have them strengthened. "But, making Indo-Soviet ties meaningful and fruitful was one thing and allowing the impression to grow that in respect of world events, India had no strategic perception distinct from that of the U.S.S.R., was quite another," he added.

The Soviet Union's armed intervention in Afghanistan and the reaction to this of the U.S.A. and its allies had precipitated in this part of the world a situation which should have prompted both India and Pakistan to forget the past and try to open a new chapter in their relations. It was a matter of regret that the leadership in both countries had allowed a historic opportunity to slip by, he stated. India should realise that it was in its own interest to have a strong and stable Pakistan between itself and the Soviet Union as a buffer. [as published] Any temptation to take advantage of Pakistan's present difficulties could in the long run prove very costly to India, he added.

President Zia of Pakistan had, in a conversation with the BJP vice-president, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, in the presence of the Indian ambassador not long ago had favoured a no-war pact with India. [as published] This matter should have been pursued, he opined.

In a scathing attack on the ruling party, Mr. Vajpayee charged it with failure to implement its poll promises. The government that works was nowhere in sight. The bureaucracy was paralysed, the judiciary was being projected as a roadblock on the path of development and the press was "gripped by an unarticulated fear--fear of consequences that could follow non-conformist writing," he claimed. The gherao of newspaper offices in Bangalore and the mass rape and murder of a journalist's wife in Orissa have an ominous significance about them, he warned.

The Congress (I) had proved itself incapable of managing the economy, Mr. Vajpayee alleged and pointed out that the present situation was in marked contrast to that under the anata. [as published] During the Janata rule, the national income went up by 6.2 per cent, while this year the rise may not be more than three per cent, he noted. [as published]

Industrial production during the Janata regime was 5.5 per cent a year, whereas this year it would be less than two per cent. Inflation during the Janata rule was nominal, while at present it was raging at 20 per cent and threatened to go up further, he stated.

"A good economy almost always results in good foreign exchange reserves. During the Janata period, the reserves went up by Rs. 2,350 crores and when we left the government, the reserves stood at Rs. 5,200 crores. Since then, they have been coming down by as much as Rs. 600 crores per year," he added.

He said the present crisis in the country was not merely economic or political in character. There was overall social degeneration caused by the corrosion of moral

values. The twin dangers of authoritarianism and anarchy called for a third alternative based upon ethical values. Only the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, more specifically the concept of "Gandhian socialism" could provide this third alternative.

Neither capitalism nor Marxism was suited to India. Gandhian socialism, to which the BJP was irrevocably committed, was the only path before both the country and the world and the sooner the country sincerely adopted this path, the better for all concerned, he added.

Second Day's Proceedings

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Dec 80 pp 1, 9

[Text] Samatanagar (Bombay), Dec. 29.--Differences in the rank and file of the Bharatiya Janata Party over its new commitment to "Gandhian socialism" surfaced tonight at the delegates' session on the second day of the party's first three-day national convention here, report UNI and PTI. [as published]

Though only a couple of the delegates who spoke on the economic policy statement--moved earlier for discussion by the former Rajasthan Chief Minister, Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat--openly suggested rejection of socialism, their speeches evoked prolonged and loud applause, indicating the support they had among partymen.

Mr Sabhapati Vishwakarma (Bihar), who moved an amendment for dropping the appellation "socialism" in favour of "Gamrajya", expressed surprise at the party leadership's "attempt to convert Gandhiji into a socialist". [as published] He said the Mahatma had always used the term "Gamrajya" to identify his socio-economic concept. "Who understands the term socialism in the countryside?" he asked, adding: "Perhaps the drafting of the document has been done in a metropolitan town". [as published]

Mrs Vijayaraje Scindia had circulated a note to the working committee objecting to the use of "socialism" in the economic policy statement draft. But she subsequently withdrew her objection after the party president, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, had explained to her its connotation.

The economic policy statement was introduced for discussion by the former Rajasthan Chief Minister, Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, and seconded by Mr Vishnukant Shastri, West Bengal MLA. Mr Shekhawat made a strong plea for the BJP identifying itself with the poorest sections of the people.

In its political resolution, the party reaffirmed its support to the "just cause" of the Assamese people and declared that the party would welcome a negotiated settlement of the issue of foreign nationals to the satisfaction of the people of Assam.

The Government's handling of the situation has created mistrust about its intentions to solve the foreigners issue, the resolution said, alleging that the Government tried to create misunderstanding about the movement by actively supporting communal and anti-social elements. Later installed a "defectors Government without any popular support". [as published]

The resolution was adopted unanimously after its mover, Mr Sikander Bakht, accepted four of the 210 amendments that were moved. Among the notable amendments incorporated in the five-page resolution was one on bringing down the voting age to 18, moved by Mr Vijay Jolly, president of Delhi University Students Union.

Mr Bakht also agreed to incorporate a statement suggested by Mr Rajendra Gupta, MLA (UP) that the Uttar Pradesh Government was deliberately trying to create hurdles in the free flow of information to the judicial inquiry into the Moradabad riots.

V. S. Maniam adds: In what is the high watermark of the BJP convention so far, the 80-year-old elder statesman and eminent jurist, Mr M. C. Chagla, told the delegates here today that the Bharatiya Janata Party had "completely established its credentials" as a party that could take the place of the present Government. It was indeed "the only party that can replace Indira" he said amid resounding cheers.

Mr Chagla also praised the BJP president Mr A. B. Vajpayee as "one of the finest men in India today" and "the finest Foreign Minister India has ever had". He added that his high praise was disinterested. "When he becomes Prime Minister, I shall not ask him for ministership or ambassadorship".

Mr Chagla said there was no rule of law in the country, but only rule by what he described as opportunists and sycophants. It was against that background, he suggested, that Mr Vajpayee stood out as "one of our finest men".

Our Special Representative adds: The Bharatiya Janata Party put up an impressive show of its strength yesterday when it took its president, Mr A. B. Vajpayee, from Samatanagar in Bandra, venue of the party's first national convention, to Shivaji Park in Dadar in a massive procession. The mile-long procession took about four hours to cross a distance of six kilometres and created enormous traffic jams in Dadar and Mahim. The procession culminated into a mammoth public meeting at Shivaji Park. The banners proclaimed the all-India character of the party. Mr Vajpayee was profusely garlanded and showered with rose petals at many places.

Concluding Day's Proceedings

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Dec 80 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party today adopted the controversial economic policy statement without any major amendment, but not before its president, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, had emphatically declared that his party "will not go back on Gandhian socialism."

The statement was passed on the concluding day of the party's first three-day plenary session here by a majority vote. Five delegates in the capacity-packed pandal persisted in opposing the statement till the last, among an estimated 55,000 delegates.

Seven among 257 amendments moved during the seven-hour discussion were incorporated in the economic policy statement, which promises to provide to the people the basic requirements of food, freedom and quality through a system based on Gandhian socialism.

Mr. Vajpayee told the dissidents that the debate on the adoption of Gandhian socialism by the BJP was closed and there was no going back on the commitment on this issue.

In a dig at newsmen, he said they kept their ears pricked to hear murmurs of dissent, but their view that the party was divided on the issue, as reflected in newspaper headlines, was not correct.

The party had accepted socialism when it merged with the Janata party in 1977 and the commitment stood, the BJP president said.

He said the BJP was a democratic party and he would give freedom to the delegates to express their views. "We are not divided on fundamental issues and democratic socialism is one of them."

The issue had been raised by the vice-president, Mrs. Vijaya Raje Scindia, at the working committee meeting earlier and she had been told that "we are in Parliament after taking oath to uphold the constitution which has already accepted socialism. How could we get away from it?"

Mr. Vajpayee made these remarks when he intervened in the debate to reply critics who continued their overnight resistance at today's resumed debate. [as published]

Referring to the term "democracy", he asked the delegates: "Are we going to give up democracy merely because the Congress (I) and the communists abused the term? Nobody should say that socialism is 'backwas'." [as published]

Mr. Vajpayee intervened when Dr. Bhai Mahavir, M.P., one of the architects of the resolution, failed to convince the dissidents on the Gandhian socialism issue.

Mr. Kunwarlal Gupta, convener of the committee which drafted the statement, accepted seven amendments and rejected 250. The drafting committee had six sittings to complete the document, and then the working committee had a ten-hour discussion on it before it came before the plenary session yesterday.

One accepted amendment made it clear that the directive principles enshrined in the constitution could be implemented without the fundamental rights being tampered with. And poverty could be eradicated without impinging on individual freedom.

The convention also accepted the workers' right to strike "as a last weapon to secure justice."

/It demanded that employment be provided to all within five years and that an unemployment allowance be given to those who could not be gainfully employed within this period./ [in boldface]

Most of the suggestions for economic reforms came through amendments moved by delegates who kept clear of the controversy on the inclusion of the term "Gandhian socialism." Suggestions for the welfare of urban working classes and rural landless labourers came mainly from activists of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, a pro-BJP trade union.

One delegate who took exception to the inclusion of the term 'socialism' in the statement wanted the entire statement remitted back to the grassroot-level units for discussion.

Another suggested the word should be replaced with "Ramrajya".

Mr. Rambilas Sharma, a Haryana Yuva Janata member, said socialism was bogus and highly discredited.

Mr. Sunil Deb, a veteran from West Bengal, demanded the use of the connotation Indian socialism.

Replying to the hecklers of Gandhian socialism in his concluding address, Mr. Vajpayee said he felt pained when some people alleged that the concept of Gandhian socialism had been adapted with a view to meeting political ends.

He emphasised that the party was never interested in power. The Jana Sangh group in the Janata party had offered to keep out of power with a view to save the government when some members threatened to bring down the government on the Jana Sangh issue.

While referring to the Socialists, he said with a smile that now "we too are Socialists." At one time, he said he did not believe in any "ism."

He called upon the members not to split words on the concept of socialism. This was not the time for semantic discussion when the country was threatened with prospects of either totalitarianism or anarchy.

The question was not who would become the Prime Minister or which party would come to power. People would decide that. But right now, our traditional values of "sabhayata" (decency) were being destroyed.

In his typical rhetorical fashion, he compared the present times with "pralaya" (deluge) and hoped a modern Manu would come forward with a Nauka (boat) to save the country. This was the time to preserve the basic values and keep intact the "seeds for the future."

Mr. Vajpayee called upon the members to increase the party's present membership of 2.5 million to five million by June next year. Special efforts be made to form state committees in Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman where the party did not have units. [as published]

He exhorted the partymen to adopt a three-pronged approach devoted to organisation, struggle against injustice and constructive activity.

The party president declared that there was now no question of joining hands or merging with any other party.

His statement that the party fully supported the Assam struggle was widely cheered. He announced that he would visit Assam soon and so would a party team consisting of Mr. L. K. Advani, Mr. Ashwini Kumar, Mr. Jaswant Singh, Mr. Rameshkumar Mishra and

Mr. Apte. Mr. Vajpayee called upon the members to observe Assam day on January 11 all over the country.

Earlier, during the discussion on the economic policy, Dr. Bhai Mahavir said the concept of Gandhian socialism had been incorporated in the party's draft several months ago, though this was the first time the issue was coming up for discussion before the large gathering.

Wage, Income Policy

On the issue of socialism, the party drew inspiration from Mr. Jayprakash Narayan, Mr. Deendayal Upadhyaya and Mahatma Gandhi.

Dr. Mahavir spoke about the glorious past achievements of the Indian artisans while emphasising the need for decentralisation in the interest of the artisans.

He made it clear that while the party was not opposed to the public sector, it was not happy with the staggering losses being suffered by this sector. He also attacked certain industrialists who misused provident fund and health insurance contributions of workers.

The demand for the right to strike was made by Mr. Mehboob Ali, former Rajasthan minister, and Mr. Omkarnath Sharma, vice-president of the Rajasthan unit of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. Mr. Sharma also demanded a national wage and income policy, which alone could make the talk of socialism meaningful.

Mr. Satyapriya Rath of Orissa said the word socialism was "foreign" and should be replaced with the word samatawad. A similar suggestion was made by Mr. C. Goyal.

Dr. Satyapal Chugh of Delhi wanted stern steps to be taken against monopolists and said the resolution had made very mild references while dealing with the need to check monopoly houses. He also demanded that funds should be collected for social welfare from rich religious institutions.

Mr. Mahadeo Shivankar said it was a pity that there was not even a reference in the resolution to the co-operative sector, which was a step towards socialism.

Mr. Madhukar Desai of Bombay criticised the refineries in Bombay for hiring workers on contract basis even though work was available for them for the whole year. The contract system led to a lot of corruption.

Mr. Anna Joshi, Pune MLA, demanded the appointment of a corporation for each agricultural produce on the lines of the Cotton Corporation of India.

Mr. Krishna Kant of Gwalior suggested payment of unemployment allowance. Mr. P. N. Lekhi, noted Delhi lawyer, said the country should sever diplomatic relations with countries which allowed their banks to accept black money from Indian leaders. [as published]

Ms. Radha Rani Singh of Bihar, while referring to the demand for the abolition of dowry, said certain party leaders in Bihar themselves, took dowry during their sons' weddings.

Mr. D. G. Gawai, former MP, said reservations should be extended to people of all castes with monthly income of less than Rs. 500.

PLAN ALLOCATION FOR ARUNACHAL PRADESH NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jan 81 p 7

[Text] Itanagar, Jan 2 (PTI)--The Sixth Plan allocation for Arunachal Pradesh is Rs 212 crore against its draft proposal of Rs 326 crores, while the annual plan outlay for 1981-82 is fixed at Rs 38 crore against Rs 26.21 crore in the previous year.

Giving these details, Chief Minister, Gangong Apang in a press statement here on his return from New Delhi on Wednesday said that the Planning Commission had allotted Rs 115 crore for the Union Territory in the Fifth Plan which ended in 1979.

Mr Apang said during his discussions with Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission N D Tiwari, he had stressed the importance and urgency of giving special attention to Arunachal, which he said, had a congenial atmosphere for development. He had also pointed out that among the North-Eastern States Arunachal had remained "most peaceful", Mr Apang said.

The Chief Minister said emphasis had been given in the Sixth Plan for development of road communication, agriculture, horticulture and power generation, beside making provision for drinking water facilities.

CSO: 4220

SOVIET, INDIAN EXPERTS TO DISCUSS LONGTERM PLANS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jan 81 p 3

[Text]

MOSCOW, Jan 2 (PTD) — Experts from India and the USSR will start 10 days hence, exercising to draw up concrete plans of action to implement various long term economic and commercial agreements concluded in Delhi after the summit talks last month between President Brezhnev and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

These plans will then be considered and finalized at the next meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission in the third week of January in New Delhi which will be co-chaired by Foreign Minister P V Narasimha Rao and First Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov.

An advance team of Soviet officials headed by commission's executive secretary Nefedovskiy

is expected to leave for India on 12 January. It will be followed by Dr Litvinenko, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries, who will sit with Secretary for Economic Affairs in the Ministry of External Affairs Ramesh Bhadani to give a final shape to various proposals that would be placed before the ministerial level session of the commission.

Besides on-going projects in the metallurgical and other sectors, the new long-term agreements envisage Soviet assistance to several new projects including those in the energy sector. The Soviet Union has tentatively offered a credit of over Rs 500 crore for these projects.

CSO: 4220

FINANCE MINISTRY REPORTS LOSSES DUE TO ASSAM

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 81 p 1

[TONE]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 2. The total loss to the country on account of the Assam agitation has been Rs. 1,126 crores in foreign exchange during 1980, the Union Finance Ministry says.

Out of this Rs. 900 crores (valued at international prices) is accounted for by the loss of 1.9 million tonnes of crude equivalent to 1.7 million tonnes of petroleum products. Production losses in the Namerup, Shadri, Barouani, Nangal, Kamrup, Pongal, Garokhpur and Phulpur units on account of the disruption of the flow of basic feedstocks consisting of naphtha, low-sulphur-heavy stock and fuel oil have amounted to ten lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 226 crores at international prices.

In order to avoid shortages and to cater to the basic consumption needs of different sectors of the economy, the Government has been forced to import substantially larger quantities of petroleum products and fertilisers to maintain adequate stocks to be available for the kharif and rabi crops in the different States during 1980.

Since the commencement of the Assam agitation in December, 1979, the three

Assam refineries at Digboi, Guwahati and Bongaigaon, as well as the Barak refinery in Jorhat have had their production drastically reduced. While Bongaigaon and Bongaigaon have remained totally shut, Guwahati and Digboi have been functioning intermittently.

"It is most unfortunate", says the Ministry that the economy has had to sustain an additional burden of over Rs. 1,000 crores in terms of foreign exchange at a time when the balance of payments position is already strained.

Since then till the end of December 1980, the losses have risen by another Rs. 135.74 crores making a total of Rs. 900 crores during 1980.

Apart from the loss to the production of oil and fertilisers, the railways have also suffered heavily on account of the agitation. Till the end of September 1980 up to which figures are available, the loss of freight traffic in physical terms has been 3.15 million tonnes valued at Rs. 24 crores. Passenger traffic has also been seriously affected because of the agitation.

CPI GENERAL SECRETARY ISSUES STATEMENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jan 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] CPI general-secretary C. Rajeswara Rao has asserted that the Left and democratic-secular parties and mass organisations would not be wanting if and when the country faces external aggression.

In a statement, Mr Rao said, "They (aforementioned parties and organisations) will defend our motherland with all their might."

Referring to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's public view that mass movements should not be resorted to when the country faced external danger, Mr Rao expressed the view that if external aggression has to be faced, the people's misery has to be mitigated. Hungry stomachs cannot face the aggressor effectively."

Mr Rao hailed the recent visit to India by Soviet President L I Brezhnev and greeted the success of his talks with Indian leaders. This visit, he felt, "has opened another chapter in the close friendly relations between our two great countries in the interest of safeguarding world peace and peace and security in our region."

Mr Rao underlined that those in India who were keen to weaken our friendship with the USSR in the name of "genuine non-alignment" were "only helping the nefarious conspiracies of the US-Chinese-Zia axis against our country's security and unity."

/Mr Rao lashed out at the BJP and pointed out that well-meaning people will never be deceived by the demagoguery about "genuine non-alignment, Gandhian socialism and active secularism" indulged in by the BJP leaders./ [in boldface]

Though they (the BJP leaders) declare from house-tops that they are against both capitalism and communism, all their slogans and activities amount to clear defence of monopolists, big traders and landlords who are the worst exploiters of the people, he added. "Their genuine non-alignment is nothing but in practice ganging up with US imperialists who are the inveterate enemy of our country. Their active secularism is nothing but a cover for their communalism which is destructive of the secular-democratic set-up of our country," he observed.

He affirmed that only the Left and democratic national alternative against authoritarianism and communalism could take the country forward towards all round progress leading to socialism.

Clarified

Meanwhile, CPI sources on Friday pointed out that the agency report from Jaipur on Mr Rajeswara Rao's statement had not correctly reported his views on Pakistani build-up across the border. What Mr Rao had cited as an argument advanced by BJP, was wrongly attributed to him.

CSO: 4220

CONGRESS(I) COMMITTEE SENDS RULE ON MOVEMENTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] The West Bengal Congress (I) president, Mr Ajit Panja, said in Calcutta on Friday that the All India Congress (I) Committee had sent a written directive that in future no movements should be organized without the approval of the Pradesh Congress (I) Committee.

The directive has evidently been given following the demonstration organized by the Subrata Mukherjee group of the State Congress (I) in Calcutta on December 22. Mr Panja said that a meeting of the PCC (I) executive would discuss the issue.

He admitted that there were differences in the party, but all efforts were being made to narrow them down. The Union Energy Minister, Mr Barkat Ghani Khan Chaudhury, had held a number of meetings with party workers and urged them to work unitedly. Mr Panja said that inner-party differences caused frustration among the party workers in the districts.

The State Congress (I) president said that during the AICC (I) session in Delhi last month, Mrs Gandhi had met a cross-section of the party members from West Bengal and urged them to work unitedly. Mr Panja said that no meeting had been fixed between Mrs Gandhi and party members during the Prime Minister's visit to Calcutta on Saturday and Sunday because she had met them recently.

Mr Panja said that her advice appeared to have borne fruit because both the Subrata Mukherjee and Somen Mitra groups had sat together with Mr Khan Chaudhury to work out the plan for putting up 33 decorative arches on the 19-km route in Calcutta along which Mrs Gandhi would travel.

CSO: 4220

MARXISTS ENTHUSIASTIC FOR CCP REPORTED WANING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jan 81 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, January 2.

The CPM's enthusiasm for establishing relationship with the Chinese Communist party has waned to the extent that it is not thinking of sending any delegation to Beijing in the near future. [as published]

The party has a standing invitation from the Chinese party for opening a dialogue with a view to establishing a formal relationship. It had earlier tentatively decided to send a high-level team this year but that appears to have been shelved now for the time being.

The explanation offered by high-placed party functionaries is that it cannot ignore the national sentiments in forging its international connection. There must be an overall improvement in India-China relationship before the party can go ahead in forging party-to-party ties. [as published]

But sources close to the party leadership say that the hesitation arises from uncertainties in the Chinese internal situation.

Internal Compulsions

The party prefers to wait and watch for some time to see whether the trends in China of moving away from the U.S. under President Reagan--consequently towards the Socialist bloc--gains strength.

The party is facing some internal compulsions for going slow on the Chinese connection. Its ambivalence on this issue is proving to be a stumbling block in its effort to forge closer ties with the CPI. [as published] The key factor is the attitude of the party unit in West Bengal where it has its strongest base but where also a sizable pro-Chinese group is putting up hurdles.

The party has apparently decided that this situation cannot be allowed to continue any further. The leadership is, therefore, concentrating on removing all ideological dissidence in the West Bengal unit. The steps taken by it in the last one month have evoked appreciative comments from the CPI leaders.

Early last month four top leaders of the party went to Calcutta for a meeting with the West Bengal unit's secretariat.

The object in which they succeeded was to get a public commitment from the state secretary, Mr. Promode Dasgupta, to support the party line of forging broad "left and democratic alliance" and also an assurance that there would not be any further delay in his undertaking the Vietnam and Kampuchea visits.

Both these commitments have deep implications for the West Bengal unit for historical reasons. The "left and democratic alliance" for them means alliance first with the CPI and then with the Congress (U).

For the rank and file, it is difficult to forget the role of the CPI during the emergency for which many party workers had to suffer.

The association of several state Congress (U) leaders with the anti-CPM drive of the government in 1971 is also hard for the party workers to overlook. Those memories provide the unifying force for the West Bengal unit.

Yields to Pressure

There is little doubt that a good deal of pressure had to be brought on Mr. Dasgupta to fully accept the central line. The central leadership has succeeded in its task to such an extent that it is said the hitherto "untamable Bengal tiger (Mr. Dasgupta) is now prepared to eat out of the hands of Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad."

Mr. Dasgupta, after the last month's meeting with the central leaders, made statements suggesting he is prepared to forge an alliance with the Congress (U). [as published]

This was followed by a formal meeting between the CPI and CPM leaders of West Bengal for co-ordinating their activities in future.

Mr. Dasgupta's Vietnam and Kampuchea visits will further strengthen the central leadership's hold on the West Bengal unit.

CSO: 4220

NEW POLICY ON IMPORT OF COMPUTERS ANNOUNCED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jan 81 p 13

[Text]

NEW DELHI, January 2.

IMPORT of computers against software exports has been restricted to some extent in the new policy announced by the department of electronics today.

The new policy on computer software exports has sought to plug loopholes in the earlier provisions while retaining the basic framework of the old policy which was suspended more than a year ago following complaints of its abuse by several parties who imported machines in the name of software exports.

The revised policy places emphasis on the generation and export of software using as far as possible the existing computing capacity in the country.

It seeks to set up an effective monitoring organisation to check malpractices through an elaborate procedure for clearing applications for software exports and computer imports. It also makes a provision for the entrepreneur giving a guarantee on exports obligations through a legal bond.

50% IN VALUE

According to the revised policy, an Indian organisation which requires foreign exchange for importing a computer for software exports can import a machine normally not exceeding 50 per cent in value of the export commitment over a five-year period.

Indian nationals settled abroad seeking to import equipment with their foreign exchange earned abroad can get machines up to 100 per cent of

the export commitment value over five years.

Those wishing to import a machine against a specific export order with an undertaking to re-export the computer will be allowed to do so without any extra obligation. They should meet their commitment normally in two years and should not put the machine to any domestic use.

GUARANTEED ORDERS

Those in the first two categories must have at the time of making applications guaranteed export orders for at least 20 per cent of value of the computer proposed to be imported.

The importer will have to use at least one-third of the time of the imported computer solely of export of software.

The electronics department will have the right for technical inspection of the computing facility and project performance. It will be entitled to discontinue performance reports from the entrepreneurs.

Before the application of an entrepreneur is approved, the department will examine capability of the applicant and the nature of the export proposal. A standing committee will examine whether the applicant can use a locally-manufactured computer.

They felt it would be difficult to secure orders for software on the basis of using machines not directly under the applicant's control and the machines which may not compare well with the latest available abroad.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN HOLDS 10TH CONGRESS

Chairman Speaks to Press

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Dec 80 p 4

[Text]

TRIVANDRUM, Dec. 27.

IN THE fight for a just social order, the National Federation of Indian Women wants women equal partners, not in isolation of or in opposition to men, but alongside them, NFIW chairman Aruna Asaf Ali told a meeting, press function here today on the eve of the tenth Congress of the premier non-political organisation of Indian women.

The NFIW is not a feminist movement and its slogan always has been "men and women together" to achieve a new social order, she said.

Mrs Asaf Ali said the NFIW congress will take the initiative to unite some of the fragmented forces that are struggling for a similar objective. The problems confronting the Indian women remain so complex that no single organisation can help achieve the goals. There are over so many pressing problems all sections of women shared in common. A broad-based plank can also be developed among different women's bodies. Certain tangible results have been achieved in this direction and the process towards joint action continues uninterrupted, she said.

The composition of the tenth congress' delegate session and its three main committees will bear this, she added.

The idea is also to exchange views among the fraternal delegations over coordinating the worldwide preparations that have already started for the international women's congress next year at Prague which is being

sponsored jointly by various international women's bodies.

CHARGE REPLIED

(According to PTL, Mrs Aruna Asaf Ali described as baseless the charge that Mrs Indira Gandhi "is trying to impose dynastic rule on the country."

Wanting one's son to take over the reins of power under a monarchy and allowing one's son to enter politics in a democracy were entirely different things she said. Moreover, she added, Mrs Gandhi had come to power through the accepted democratic process.

Under a democratic set-up, Mrs Asaf Ali did not think it proper to deny certain people the right to enter politics just because their relations were in power.

Among the 30 general delegations participating in the conference, 13 are from Asian and African countries.

Top leaders of the NFIW and also delegations from the Soviet Union, GDR, Cuba, South Africa, Czechoslovakia, South Yemen, England, Finland, Bangladesh, Bulgaria Sri Lanka, Kampuchea and Vietnam arrived here yesterday as also Women's International Federation secretary-general Madam Miriam Tsim.

The plenary session will split into three to discuss the three main topics before the congress—social oppression of women, rising prices and employment opportunities for women. These committees are headed, respectively, by Mrs Aruna Imman, MP, Mrs Purnali Mukherji, MP and Mrs Vinai Rana-dive.

Begum Ahida Ahmed widow of former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and a leading personality in the women's movement in the country—for several years now, opens the congress at a mass rally.

The inaugural rally as also the delegate's session starting from Sunday are presided over by NFIW chairman Aruna Asaf Ali. Speakers at the rally include Mrs Biju Chakravarty, Mrs Vinai Farooqi and heads of fraternal delegations.

A special plenary session is planned for tomorrow evening which will be addressed by Chief Minister Y K Haryanar, Education Minister Baby John and Civil Supplies Minister Chandra-shekar Nair.

The biggest delegations have come from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Orissa.

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Dec 80 p 4

[Text]

TRIVANDRUM, Dec 29.

NFIW general secretary Vimla Farooqui set the tone for the next three-day deliberations of the tenth congress being held here when she called upon the 2000 delegates present to prepare for hard struggles ahead against social oppression, rising prices, for better living conditions and employment opportunities while promoting the working report and other discussion papers at the plenary session today.

Presiding over the session, NFIW chairman Mrs Aruna Asaf Ali called upon women of all sections to organise themselves in order to take their own hands. Indian womenhood was no longer prepared to take the social oppressions, atrocities and injustices heaped on them lying down, she declared.

While inaugurating the massive public rally last evening which marked the formal beginning of the NFIW tenth congress, Mrs Asaf Ali also underlined the need for the Indian women to

become ever more stronger and united to forge ahead in creating a better society where "women are not discriminated against and exploited or oppressed by reason of their sex."

The plenary session later split into three commissions to discuss the main papers presented—one on social oppressions of women, second on rising prices and the third on their employment opportunities. These commissions are listed to be headed respectively by Asira Inam, MP, Purnhi Mukherji, MP and Vimla Farooqui.

Like at the public rally last evening, addressing the plenary session today, Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) general secretary Michèle Mirjan Tourmieu greeted the Indian women on behalf of the militant women's organisation throughout the world. She praised the peace initiatives of Mrs Indira Gandhi's Government and pleaded the WIDF support for these efforts to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

Sharing the sentiment conveyed by the WIDF chief were also the delegation heads from the Soviet Union, Vietnam and Kampuchea among others at the morning plenary session.

A special plenary session was held in the evening which was addressed by Kerala Chief Minister, E K Nayanar and Pondicherry Chief Minister, V. V. Srinivasan.

PM'S MESSAGE

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in a message to the tenth congress of the National Federation of Indian Women, has expressed the hope that women's organisations would strive to strengthen unity.

Competition in politics, economics and employment had served to accentuate rivalries, she pointed out.

She said there was no task or aspect of national life to which women did not make an important contribution. Very often women's organisations took up women's problems, but this limited their role and effectiveness, Mrs Gandhi said.

Report on Conclusions, Resolutions

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jan 81 p 4

[Text]

TRIVANDRUM, Dec. 31.

THE NFIW 10th Congress concluded its four-day successful deliberations here last night on a militant note as 2,000 delegates drawn from various parts of the

country gave prolonged ovation to the decision announced for the all India march of women to Parliament during the budget session on the issue of rising prices as part of the campaign programme adopted by the three commissions on social oppressions of women, price rise and employment opportunities.

On the Parliament march of force will be made to secure the cooperation of other women's organisations for jointly sponsoring it. NFIW's newly re-elected president Mrs Aruna Asaf Ali and general secretary Mrs Vimla Farooqui told newsmen today while explaining the decisions and resolutions of the 10th congress.

The highlight of the concluding session yesterday was the

presence of the Afghan Minister for Education Dr. Anshita among the fraternal delegates from about 20 countries abroad. Her greetings to the Indian women came as a fitting climax to the 10th congress deliberations.

The congress decided that the members of the NFIW should carry on an extensive and sustained campaign among women about the reasons of rising prices for which "hoarders, black-marketeers, wholesale dealers and monopolists were mainly responsible".

DEMANDS

The demands during the campaign will include: Government should take over physical control of stocks of all essential commodities and wholesale trade of foodgrains, nationalised sugar, cotton, textiles and drug

industries and public sector should enter essential consumer goods industry; a well-organised country-wide public distribution system supplying all essential commodities should be set up to cover both urban and rural areas; remunerative prices for primary's produce and supply of agricultural inputs like fertilisers, pesticides, diesel at reasonable prices should be guaranteed besides fair minimum wages assured to agricultural workers and setting up of vigilance committees which should include representatives of women's and other social organisations to supervise distribution through fair price shops by giving statutory power to these committees.

The Congress passed resolutions supporting mass struggles

against efforts of some reactionary elements for the revival of self. It discussed in great detail the question of social oppression and growing atrocities on women in the form rape, molestation, dowry death by murder and suicides in the recent period. The congress expressed grave concern at the decline in the number and percentage of women in employment in the last three decades and the fact that the largest number of women were working in unskilled untrained jobs.

RESERVATION

The congress demanded special education, training facilities for women. It also called for 20 per cent reservation for women in all Government and local self Government bodies.

The Government should adopt child welfare and maternity as a national policy. The sixth Plan should make special fund allotment for improving the condition of women and creating more employment opportunities for them.

The congress also passed resolution on communalism, peace

in the North Eastern region, condemned the National Security Ordinance, expressed solidarity with the people of all those countries who are fighting against repression, foreign aggression, racialism and imperialism.

The congress by another resolution called upon women all over the country to further strengthen the struggle for world peace and disarmament along with peace forces all over the world. It reiterated its demand for declaring Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION SUBMITS REPORTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jan 81 p 17

[Text] New Delhi, January 1 (PTI).

The national police commission will submit the draft for a new police act to replace the "outdated" act of 1861 to the government in the new year.

It is learnt that the commission had already produced a format and was in the process of preparing it on the basis of its recommendations.

The draft will form part of the eighth and final report of the commission to be submitted around mid-1981.

The commission has already submitted five reports, out of which only the first report had been made public by the government.

The sixth report dealing with the Indian Police Service (IPS), training of the officers and their career prospects is likely to be handed over to the home ministry next month.

The commission in its reports pointed out that the police at present was being governed under the act of 1861 which had practically remained unchanged even after independence.

Members pointed out that the British used the police to keep themselves in power. The force continues to be used as a "strong-arm" of the government in free India. "Where is the difference between imperialism and democracy?" the commission wondered.

The commission in its fifth report strongly recommended that political control over the police should be taken away.

India should follow the system as prevalent in Japan and some other countries where the police force was under a national security commission and not the government, the report said.

The chief of the police works as member-secretary of the commission which is dominated by jurists, administrators, academicians and social scientists, it pointed out.

The national security commission in these countries gave only policy directions to the police but had no say in regard to postings, transfers and promotions. The job was left entirely to the police chief who was selected carefully for a fixed tenure and could not be removed at will, the commission pointed out.

Independent Body

The commission suggested that even under the existing system in India, state police chiefs should be selected from among a panel of names by an independent body.

This body could be the Central public service commission, assisted by some senior police officers and administrators, but no politician should be attached to it.

The commission felt that IGS, DIGs, SPs and DSPs must have a fixed tenure. They could not be expected to produce a good police force if they were to be shifted frequently.

It expressed concern that ground training for the police force was at present being neglected. There was more reliance on paper work and this had affected the competence of police officers.

The fifth report submitted recently dealt with recruitment, training and career prospects of the subordinate service—from constable to the deputy superintendent of police.

CSO: 4220

EDITORIAL NOTES GAINS FROM SPONGE IRON PLANT

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jan 81 p 8

[Text] The inaugurating of the sponge iron plant near Kothagudem, in Andhra Pradesh, adds India to the small list of countries which have succeeded with the direct reduction process to produce iron. The pioneer in this field is Mexico which used natural gas for this purpose more than two decades ago. The technique is taking root in more and more countries around the world, for example, in Venezuela, the United States, Brazil, South Korea, Iran and Algeria. In Nigeria, where the Indian public sector firm, MECON, is the primary consultant, the idea is to take the sponge iron route to steel, doing away with the traditional iron ore-coal-coke system involving the setting up of expensive coke ovens and blast furnaces. The major conventional method to produce steel is to make pig iron from ore through blast furnaces and steel through open hearth or basic oxygen furnaces popularly known as LD converters. (The name comes from Linz and Donowitz in Austria where oxygen blowing was first established in 1952). This method accounts for nearly 80 per cent of the production of steel in the non-communist world. The West German assisted Rourkela plant was one of the earliest in the world to use LD converters which have also been installed at Bokaro. An integrated steel works as existing today consists of plants containing facilities such as blast furnaces, LD converters, bloom and ingot casters, soaking pits and hot and cold rolling mills. According to the Iron and Steel Institute, Brussels, the second method, the electric arc furnace, accounts for nearly 130 million tonnes or 20 per cent of the non-communist world's production.

Apart from the Andhra plant, another sponge iron unit is being erected in Orissa and is expected to come into operation later this year. The sponge iron route is of special interest in view of the scarcity and high cost of scrap which is the basic raw material for the electric arc furnaces in mini-steel and alloy steel plants. For the present, the scrap or sponge iron route is a secondary production facility. Sponge plants' importance to India will be mainly as an input substitution for the electric arc steel plants. Both the integrated mills and the electric furnaces need downstream merchant and rolling mills to make finished saleable items. Some quantities of sponge iron can also be used in the furnaces of integrated mills. A major advantage in the sponge route is the use of non-metallurgical coal of which India has abundant reserves while coking coal sources are small.

For the two port-based plants which are being planned at Visakhapatnam and Paradeep, it is proposed to import a part of the coking coal needs. If India is to become self-reliant in the raw materials for an expanded iron and steel industry, it will

have to look for technological processes that eliminate or drastically reduce the use of coking coal. A new system developed by the Swedes, but still to be proven for large-scale adoption, is the Elred process which will use ordinary powdered coal to reduce iron ore. In any general strategy to abandon the dependence on coking coal, there will have to be a simultaneous emphasis on massive generation of electricity from thermal power houses based on ordinary coal. In the non-classical, non-coking route, the recurring expenses on power will no doubt be higher. The saving will be on capital costs through the elimination of a large cluster of facilities for iron making. Also, the sponge units can progressively substitute the material demanded by foundries using pig iron. The gigantic Vizag and Paradeep plants are planned on the conventional pattern, incorporating one sophistication in the form of continuous casting. The expansion of Bhilai and Bokaro is also on the classical style. For other new plants, there is an opportunity to study the feasibility of new concepts like Elred.

CSO: 4220

REASONS FOR LADAKH DISSATISFACTION REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jan 81 p 4

[Text]

JAMMU, Jan. 1 —While the Centre is reported to be seriously concerned about the potentially dangerous political situation in the strategic Ladakh frontier region, the State Government appears to be still exploring the avenues for establishing some contact with the agitators in Leh district for a possible negotiated settlement.

So far the situation has been dealt with at the level of local officials with no visible effort for a political reconciliation. It is highly doubtful if the action committee spearheading the one-year-long anti-Government stir against "discriminatory policies of the National Conference administration" will respond to the Government initiative. The attitude of the agitators is said to have hardened in reaction to the characterization of their demands by the State Chief Secretary on Monday as being "trivialous."

Following an unscheduled meeting here between Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah and Governor I. K. Jha, a Cabinet Minister is likely to be rushed to the trouble-torn Leh, which was the scene of mob violence on Sunday. Not much is expected from this move coming as it does rather late.

Reports reaching here from the Ladakh action committee sources indicate that the movement is centering round the de-

mand for "regional autonomy" and adequate representative share for the Ladakh region in the political expanse. At present there are only two junior Ministers, one each from Leh and Kargil districts, who represent the Ladakh region in the State Ministry.

Contrary to this, the Kashmir Valley has five and Jammu two representatives in the Cabinet.

Both Ladakhi Ministers hold Deputy Minister's rank in the three-tier Council of Ministers.

As pointed out by PCC-I president Mufi Mohammad Saif, also, the State Government has been guilty not only of neglecting the Leh District but also demonstrating it.

The Cabinet visits other districts twice a year regularly for holding joint meetings with district development boards. But no such meeting was ever held at Leh nor has any Minister or senior functionary of the National Conference visited that place after their last unsuccessful election campaign there.

As a reaction to this type of attitude of the State Government the agitators have voiced the demand for decentralization of power and regional autonomy.

The agitators' drive to intensify their stir from 5 January has "understandably shaken the administration from its hitherto callous and complacent response."

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY RELEASES YEAR-END REVIEW

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jan 81 p 5

[Text]

FOODGRAIN production in 1980-81 may be 133 million tonnes as a result of steps taken by the Government as against only 108.85 million tonnes in the previous year.

The year end review of the Agriculture Ministry says that 1980 had been a year of challenge which put to severe test the strength of the farm economy. The first half of the year witnessed a drought of unprecedented magnitude, worst in the century, which hit about 38 million hectares of cultivated land in 11 States, affecting almost one-third of the total production.

A multi-pronged relief drive was launched as also top priority was accorded to save the crops. "The most widespread drought was handled without a single starvation death and without import of a single grain of food."

An important step was taken by the Government as a part of its policy in the shape of a revision of the terms of the Agriculture Prices Commission to bring the trade within its scope so that a reasonable parity be brought between the produce of the farmers and the cost of inputs.

The farmers were given higher procurement prices compared to prices in earlier years. The procurement price of wheat was raised from Rs 115 to Rs 117 a quintal, paddy from Rs 95 to Rs 105 and coarse grains were

given a boost of Rs 10 per quintal.

Many steps were taken to improve production of sugarcane, the statutory price for sugarcane was fixed at Rs 13 per quintal, which was further raised to Rs 16. Following steps, sugarcane production this year is estimated as against 126 million tonnes to be around 130 million tonnes in 1979-80 and sugar production to around 52 lakh tonnes as against 39.5 lakh tonnes.

The problems of the North-East received special attention and a task force was constituted in March last year to evolve a strategy for the development of Assam and other areas.

Care was taken to meet the fertiliser need of the farmers and nearly six lakh tonnes fertiliser was imported to meet the shortfall in domestic production. The APC was asked to revise the procurement rates of principal farm produce so as to neutralise about 37 per cent increase in fertiliser prices.

Emphasis is being laid to increase oilseeds and pulses production and the ICAR and various agricultural universities have been specifically asked to accelerate the pace of research in these two fields.

Another important step was taken to bring all 5,011 blocks in the country under the Integrated Rural Development Programme. As against the 8 million beneficiaries of the programme, since its inception in 1971, the target for the sixth Plan is 15 million families.

PUBLIC SECTOR STEEL UNITS INCREASE PRODUCTION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jan 81 p 5

[Text]

FOR three months production in the public sector steel plants has shown a continuous upward trend, in December recording 458,000 tonnes of saleable steel, the highest in 21 months.

But the rate of oven pushing has improved only marginally, a press release of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. said on Thursday. In December the coking coal stocks with the integrated steel plants fell to 1,40,000 tonnes from the 1,50,000 tonnes at the end of November.

As compared to the production in September '80 after which the pick up in producing has been continued, the growth registered is 43 per cent. At the end of the three quarters (April-December, 1980) of the current financial year the gap between last year's production of saleable steel in corresponding period has been narrowed down to 90,000 tonnes from 2.1 lakh tonnes which existed at the end of the second quarter (April-September, 1980).

Picking up from the level of 319,200 tonnes of saleable steel produced in September, the SAIL plants produced 406,000 tonnes in October.

There was further increase in November when these plants aggregated 420,000 tonnes. By

producing 458,000 tonnes of saleable steel in December, individually all the SAIL units have attained highest monthly levels of production in the current financial year.

Among the plants, Bhilai operated above the target levels producing 187,000 tonnes of saleable steel as against the plan of 165,000 tonnes for the month. This is 103 per cent rated capacity. Rourkela also exceeded the target of 100,000 tonnes for the month producing 103,000 tonnes which is 101 per cent of the capacity.

The plants in DVC belt, namely Durgapur, Bokaro and IISCO, which have yet to receive full quantum of power supply to attain targeted levels, also showed improvement. This improvement could have been still more had DVC generation not suffered a setback during the second half of the month. With anticipated further increase in power supply to these units their production levels are envisaged to go up correspondingly.

GENERAL SAYS ARMY FIREPOWER BEING IMPROVED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan 14.—General O. P. Malhotra, Chief of the Army Staff, has said that constant improvement in firepower and communication is being made to meet any threat from the neighbouring countries reports UNI.

In an interview with Sakshi Samachar in connexion with the Army Day tomorrow, General Malhotra said that in the light of the arms buildup by the neighbours "a constant watch is being kept on the military capability of our potential aggressors".

"We are taking the necessary measures to change our own capabilities in order to be able to fulfil tasks efficiently. Our modernisation schemes are going ahead," he said.

Answering question on the shortage of fuel and its likely impact in a warlike situation, General Malhotra assured that the Army would not suffer from oil shortage should a war be thrust on the country.

"There are, of course, alternatives which are examined by every Army and whatever is feasible and effective is done. India is not entirely dependant on oil imports as the country produces a fairly good percentage of its requirements".

The problem, he pointed out, was not only of fuel requirements of the Army and essential civil re-

quirements, should be taken into consideration. "After all, the strength of the armed forces is derived from the national economy which has an important role to play," the General said.

The Army Chief felt that all the upgradation vacancies sanctioned under the cadre review would be filled without lowering qualitative requirements. He said he was aware of some supersessions which had taken place because the units could not provide adequate time to some personnel for upgradations.

Instructions had been issued to commanders at all levels to provide maximum opportunity to the affected personnel to help them acquire the necessary qualifications required for the next rank. General Malhotra said.

On the officer-soldier relationship, the Army Chief said "Our doctrine has always kept pace with the changing socio-economic environment. The Army's strength is based on close and intimate personal relationship between the leader and the led". For the veterans proposals had been made to help whittle down the disparity among pensioners.

To mark the Army day, General Malhotra has awarded his commendation cards to 274 Army personnel and civilians for their acts of gallantry distinguished service and devotion to the duty.

The Directorate of Public Relations in the Ministry of Defence has been commended and the award has gone to Major Prem Nath Khara, public relations officer for the Army. Of the 174 awardees, there are 42 civilians and two women — Major Annamma Cherian and Captain Leela Abenezar both belonging to the Military Nursing Service.

DELHI GIVES PRIORITY TO SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jan 81 p 7

[Text] Kanpur, January 2: Dr. Ved Mitra, director of the department of science and technology, said here yesterday that the Centre had given priority to exploring the possibility of using solar energy for various purposes and earmarked Rs. 50 crores for the purpose during the next plan.

Dr. Mitra was talking to newsmen on the eve of a two-day seminar on solar energy organised jointly by his department, the local Indian institute of technology and several public and private enterprises.

He noted that work on the development of solar energy was progressing rapidly and was likely to be used on a commercial scale within five years. It was already being used for heating and other purposes, though in a limited way.

Dr. Mitra stated that West Germany and the Soviet Union were collaborating with some national organisations such as I.I.T., Madras, and Bharat Heavy Electricals in developing various solar energy gadgets.

Dr. Agarwal, of the local IIT, said teams of technologists of the institute were working on a number of projects for development of solar energy.

The president of the merchants' chamber of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Govind Hari Singhania, said the development of solar energy had assumed great importance in view of the mounting cost of imported oil.

C50: 4220

PAPER REPORTS WORLD BANK LOAN WITHDRAWAL

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by N. Ram]

[Text]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.

Despite Mr. P. C. Sethi's statement in New Delhi that "the World Bank has extended by one month the time for taking a decision on proposals for a loan of \$250 millions for the Thal project", there is virtually no chance of saving the loan in the absence of a turnaround by the Government of India.

The Bank has rejected the Government of India's brief, inspired by Mr. P. C. Sethi's Ministry, seeking to justify the switch of consultants from C. F. Braun Ltd. of the United States to Haldor Topsoe, the Danish-based firm 50 per cent of whose shares are owned by the Italian firm, Snam Progetti.

As the December 31, 1980, deadline for meeting the conditions of effectiveness of the loan was crossed, there appeared to be no formal communication here on the Government of India's request for yet another extension.

It is known that the bank management is unwilling to prolong through close means a negotiating process that is already exceptionally protracted. It is not clear how the "one-month extension" will be used and whose process of decision-making Mr. Sethi referred to.

So far as the World Bank is concerned, its decision to reject the Government of India's justification of the switch of consultants for the ammonia process is final.

Consequently, its support for the project in western Maharashtra — supposed to be commenced in 1983 and planned to produce 2700 tonnes of ammonia and 4500 tonnes of urea per day at full capacity — has fallen through whatever the technicality at this moment. This assumes, of course, there will not be a cancellation of its switch by the Government of India.

Meanwhile, expectations have been raised that a very substantial World Bank loan can be secured for the Hapsa project for which Pullman-Kellogg have been chosen consultants. With the appraisal over, negotiations for this are expected to be conducted in February-March.

Besides being responsible for the cost escalation and other types of losses resulting from its decision-making in relation to an expensive venture based on Bombay High gas, the Government of India is left with the job of finding other sources of major external financing for Thal.

The 20-year World Bank loan (including five years of grace) bearing an annual interest of 7.9 per cent was cleared by the Bank's Board of Executive Directors in June 1979, and the loan and project agreement were concluded a couple of months later.

From then on, it has been a story of footdragging on the part of New Delhi in making it effective, a sudden switch on the choice of consultants overruling the recommendations made by expert committees, a demand by the Bank to justify the procedures for the decision, and the seeking of repeated extensions from the Bank of the deadline for resolving the differences.

The conditions of effectiveness of the loan included the specific requirement in Section 2.02 (A) of the project agreement that the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd. (RCF), the implementing organisation, "shall obtain licenses and plant designs and employ consultants whose qualifications, experience and terms and conditions of employment shall be satisfactory to the Bank."

The firm originally chosen for the ammonia plant process for both Thal-Vashti in Maharashtra and Hajira in Gujarat—C.F. Braun—and recommended for the Thal project by the B. B. Singh expert committee is recognised worldwide as the possessor

of a very advanced and proven technology that is way ahead of the competition, including Kellogg.

Banker's Standpoint

It also happened to be the lowest bidder. The World Bank gave crucial weightage to the fact that Braun offered a 20 per cent saving in energy consumption.

The Bank, while maintaining it is not casting aspersions on the firm chosen in the face of reported opposition by the former Petroleum Minister, Mr. Veerendra Patil, and the Finance Minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, takes the position "from a banker's standpoint" that it is not convinced that the Government of India has got a consultant with a proven technology to offer.

Bank officials have not been coy with their informal opinion that accepting Topsoe as consultants for Thal would amount to participation in an arrangement that turns the firm in a series of new fertilizer plants in India into a "guinea pig."

The Government of India's not very serious defence of the switch stood no chance of acceptance in any technical or financial evaluation of procedures.

Apart from the intrinsic technical and financial merit in its objection, the Bank has been able to demonstrate, by choosing to make a firm stand on this, that U.S. interests are safe in its hands. This is a message that will be well received in this country at a time when congressional sentiment is very sticky about U.S. participation in the expanded activities of IDA and IMF.

The brightest retort Indian officialdom has in this context seems to be "would the Bank have chosen to make such an issue of this if, say, a West German or Japanese firm had been involved?" But this is a poor substitute for justification on merits.

The choice of consultants for Thal and Hapsa are important, not so much

for the consultant's fee which will be a relatively minor proportion of the project cost, as for the fact that the design specifications determine the source of supplies in a highly lucrative field.

Even more important, the multinational chosen for the initial projects will have the big advantage of exposure in a most attractive market for fertilizer plants and technology over the next several years. In fact, given the implications of the new programme of offshore and onshore exploration of hydrocarbons adopted by New Delhi, the attraction of the Indian fertilizer market for multinationals cannot be overstated.

Important Factors

From India's standpoint, the terms immediately offered in a period of quite rapid cost escalation, the stability and sophistication of the plant and

technology, the relative energy-efficiency offered, and the issue of willingness or otherwise of the foreign firm to transfer technology to the Fertilizer Planning and Development India Limited (FPDIL) are said to be important.

The use of extensions secured from the World Bank for satisfying the conditions of effectiveness has demonstrated what is regarded here as clumsiness. Bank sources, after an initial exhibition of raw feelings (which featured an angry outburst by the U.S. alternate Executive Director), are now making the point that this unprecedented termination of a loan agreement before the loan became effective can perhaps be viewed as a localized or individual dispute which could not be resolved.

They are saying in effect that, after all, there is a lot of other business to be transacted with a member that is the Bank group's largest borrower

by far over the short as well as long terms.

Nevertheless, while formally the issue can be presented as one of divergent technological assessments that could not be reconciled, there is no hiding the reality that there has been much embarrassment in this for the Government of India.

This is certainly the first instance of a major project loan being withdrawn in this fashion. In the case of many other countries, it is being pointed out here, issues of business such as the choice of consultants would have had to be cleared in advance of the formal decision by the Bank's Executive Board.

The clearance of the project loan without clinching the choice of consultants is regarded as some kind of tribute to India's technical procedures. It is that which has been brought under a cloud.

ACTION PROGRAM FOR MINERAL EXPLOITATION URGED

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 81 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] India is a significant importer of non-ferrous metals, with domestic production of zinc being of the order of only 53,000 tonnes, of primary lead 11,431 tonnes and of secondary lead 10,303 tonnes. The estimated demand is more than twice the figure for primary zinc and for the two lead varieties put together. The gap in the case of copper is 60 per cent. These shortages in availability are being met through imports. Since the world demand for these metals is growing fast, the global supply position is bound to get tighter than ever before. Excluding aluminium, imports of non-ferrous metals cost around Rs. 250 crores. This is not frightening but the point is that, if India has the capability for increasing its home supplies, it had better do so as early as possible.

It is on this score that the suggestion has been made at yesterday's meeting of the Indian National Science Academy at Varanasi for a Second Minerals Policy Conference to evolve a systematic approach to the exploitation, conservation, domestic utilisation and exports of various minerals. The Varanasi meet finds no shortage of ores of aluminium, magnesium, manganese, iron and titanium but feels that the necessary effort to augment the local production is not there. The world supply of some of the important industrial raw materials such as copper, chromium, nickel, tin, silver, molybdenum, cobalt and tungsten is controlled by five countries. India needs to take a close look at the resources it can develop within the country. In the Outlook discussion in THE HINDU last June it was pointed out that India is self-sufficient in as many as 25 of the 43 minerals absorbed in industrial uses. With its fantastic deposits of barytes in the Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh, it ranks second among the world producers, next only to the United States (Nevada). Iron ore, mica and ilmenite constitute the next group in which India has the sinews to acquire commanding heights in the world market.

This potential has to be activated under an adequately phased developmental programme. Participants at the Outlook discussion also felt that "we are still in the hurricane-lantern stage as far as the use of land and data are concerned, we are only doing the imagery part, we are still to make a headway in using the digital data, spectral data and using computer analysis of the spectral data which we have not mastered." This is the sort of deficiency that should not be permitted to persist. What has been achieved since the First Minerals Conference of 1947 is of course not to be overlooked. Import as a percentage of total supplies has come down to 60 per cent from 84.3 per cent in 1951 in the case of copper, but capacity utilisation is 56.2 per cent because of the technical and other difficulties bedevilling, for instance, the Khetri project. As for the production of zinc and lead, there is no significant improvement since the mid-Seventies. It is time an action programme was mounted to change the scene markedly.

CSO: 4220

WRITER EXAMINES CONDITION OF INDIAN PORTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 81 p 8

[Article by S. Parthasarathy]

[Text]

THE ten major ports of India may be classified as under in relation to their topography: riverine and estuarine ports—Calcutta and Kanchi; lagoon ports—Vishakhapatnam, Cochin, Paradeep and Mangalore; natural ports—Bombay and Marmagao; and artificial harbours—Madras and Tuticorin.

An UNCTAD-commissioned study of the facilities in the major ports written off Paradeep "as a dry port with neither the characteristics nor the blueprint of a major port." The study which was co-sponsored by the European Economic Community was made by Julius Lude-Gredtch (consultant on international distribution) after visits to all the ports and discussions with all concerned and his report was released a month ago.

The Calcutta-Haldia port complex suffers from two chronic problems—drought and labour indiscipline. Their solutions is a question mark. That leaves only Vishakhapatnam, Madras and Tuticorin on the Coromandel coast for handling about 40 per cent of the country's maritime trade.

The emergence of bulk cargo as the main component of India's maritime trade has exposed clearly the inadequacy of the existing facilities in several ports with the growing traffic through them. There has been a continuously rising trend in India's trade with foreign countries. Not surprisingly, the rapid expansion in the traffic and the pace of technological changes abroad in shipping have clearly brought out the need for reviewing the available facilities in the ports.

Good General Cargo Port

Vishakhapatnam and Madras are equipped with modern facilities and can handle one lakh tonnes. While in Vishakhapatnam there is not much general cargo, Madras has developed into a good

general cargo port. Besides, it caters to bulk cargo like petroleum and iron ore. Vishakhapatnam managed to have 11.7 million tonnes of customs in 1979-80 while Madras handled more than ten million tonnes.

Madras Port, which will be completing 100 years of very useful service in February 1981, is implementing a Rs. 32-crore modernisation scheme—part of the larger project of modernisation of Indian ports costing Rs. 600 crores. The World Bank is likely to extend big assistance for a grain terminal at Madras port. Containerisation facilities are also being created. A proposal for a dry dock, accepted on all heads as essential, has been under the active consideration of the Government for years without any decision still being taken.

Wise Decision on Tuticorin

The other port on the Coromandel coast where all eyes are turned is Tuticorin. This is an artificial deep sea harbour with rubble mound type parallel breakwaters, north and south, of length 4,103 m. and 3,888 m. respectively with an entrance of 152 m. enclosing an area of 960 acres of sea.

The merger of the old minor port and its integration with the new major port has proved to be a wise decision contributing to the improvement of the efficiency of operations.

The volume of traffic handled at the four alongside berths and the oil jetty as well as at the lightering (extension) port has soared from 17 lakh tonnes during 1976-79 to over 24 lakh tonnes during 1979-80, the increase working out to 42 per cent against an all-India figure of 12 per cent.

The berth occupancy has reached as high a figure as 93 per cent. When this

crosses 60 per cent it is regarded as about the time to go in for quick expansion. While a minimum of four additional berths are required urgently, only two have been sanctioned for Tuticorin.

The high level of efficiency, better infra-structure facilities, quick turn round of vessels, and availability of a disciplined labour force, are some of the attractive features influencing trade interests to make greater use of Tuticorin as a sea port. Another is the benefit of receiving despatch money in most of the cases due to expeditious despatch of ships.

Containerisation

It was Malcolm McLean of McLean trucking who sheered off the wheels of several dump truck trailers in 1956, stuffed them with cargo and put them in the old tankers and started handling cargo between New York and Texas. That was the beginning of a revolution in the multimodal transport system of the world.

Containerisation is a highly capital intensive technology, yet it has proved to be the cheapest and the most efficient multimodal distribution system to manufacturers and consumers alike. Containerisation, though started only in the mid-fifties, has made rapid progress in the advanced world and is now spreading to the developing countries.

The spectacular growth of containerisation over many trade routes has changed the scenario of the Indian ports to a large extent. However, for the Government's decision to go in for containerisation to get reflected in actual container traffic through the ports it took nearly 10 years. Madras port is going in for the second stage of the container terminal apart from additional general cargo berths.

Tuticorin entered the container era soon after it was thrown open for commercial activities. The world's leading container operator, Ferrell Lines, has started using Tuticorin as a container transshipment centre between the U.S. and Bay of Bengal ports (Chittagong, Chalna, Calcutta, Madras and Colombo).

When the transshipment operations go into full swing, 1,200 containers of size 20 by 8 by 8 feet with a load of 18,000 tonnes would be passing through the port every month. Ferrell Lines, who chose Tuticorin in the face of severe competition from Colombo and Chittagong, operates fully containerised services to the U.S. East Coast and the Gulf and East Canadian ports with transshipment arrangements at Palermo (Italy).

Under the scheme, large size container vessels—mother ships—call regularly at the port (twice or thrice a month), and small container vessels (daughter ships) move the containers from Tuticorin along the Bay of Bengal ports and vice versa. Encouraged by the good working results

of the container handling at Tuticorin, the Shipping Corporation of India has also started the West Coast of India—Australia container service from Tuticorin by berthing vessels bound for Australia.

Cochin is also a container port. In fact, it was the first Indian port to handle container services catering to a bimonthly container liner service to the U.S.

Sethu Project

With the phenomenal growth in Tuticorin port traffic, it is time the Government took a decision on the Sethu Canal project as this will be a vital and strategically important port in the face of the growing rivalries in the Indian Ocean among the superpowers.

A report prepared by Mr. J. I. Cail Filat, former Chief Engineer and Administrator of the Tuticorin Harbour Project and submitted to the government a couple of months ago, expressed surprise that the Government while updating the cost estimates from the original figure of Rs. 37 crores to Rs. 110 crores, to term the project "unviable", failed to do similar updating in respect of the financial aspects of the canal.

According to him, the project revenue and expenditure would be of the order of Rs. 540 lakhs and Rs. 250 lakhs respectively enabling the project to pay back the capital in 28 years.

The Chairman of the Port Trust, Mr. V. Sundararam, endorses the arguments of Mr. Cail Filat. He also points out that India's dredging technology and capability has advanced and the country has its own Dredging Corporation which could undertake the project easily. There will be financial benefits for the shippers also, reduction in voyage time, reduction in fuel cost—coming to a total of Rs. 80,602 per trip when quantified.

Oil Refinery

There is a strong case for locating an oil refinery in Tuticorin. The SPIC fertilizer plant consumes huge quantities of naphtha and the thermal station fuel oil. There is the ready availability of a port facility to accommodate giant tankers bringing crude oil. While the Government is considering favourably location of refineries at every major port on the west coast (Mormugao, Kandla and Mangalore are expected to be sanctioned a refinery each), it is not known why on the east coast there is no active consideration or even thinking about a refinery at the new port.

One great handicap already felt is the absence of a broad gauge link with such a busy major port as Tuticorin. In fact, Julius Lado-Grednicki has commented: "It is imperative that the major port should be connected with broad gauge railways which form the national grid. Transloading cargo from other gauges into broad gauge

is time-consuming, costly and exposes goods to the risk of handling." The way traffic is building up in the Tuticorin port, makes it clear that the gauge conversion cannot 'break delay'.

Who can deny that frequent delays at the ports caused by a host of factors like inadequate cargo handling equipment and persistent labour indiscipline have pushed up freight rates greatly? Further, complacency in streamlining the existing system of loading and unloading operations with proper maintenance of handling equipment have also been factors contributing to the deterioration in the efficient use of port facilities.

Slow turnaround of ships in turn reflects the available poor facilities at the ports even after years of planning and development. Better handling equipment, higher labour productivity and quicker turnaround of ships, could reduce the freight rates.

The Tuticorin Port Trust Chairman has expressed himself against the constitution of a Dock Labour Board for the Port. The port is quite enlightened on labour matters but stevedore agents are not. So far, the work force at the port has remained quite disciplined.

Port matters are getting delayed inordinately at the level of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport where except for the Development Adviser, the top men have little experience of port working. The Public Accounts Committee has made adverse comments on the delays in the

execution of port projects and prevalence of corruption.

Considering the magnitude of investment in major ports, knowledgeable persons feel the need for a major ports board on the lines of the Railway Board, which will be a repository of technical, organisational, administrative and marine experience relating to ports.

The board could be entrusted with the responsibility of control, direction and supervision of all the major ports and with authority to clear new projects and get them through expeditiously. The autonomous board should have, besides a chairman who will be ex-officio Secretary to Government, a number of experts devoted functionally to mechanical, civil, labour, and marine matters.

Under the present dispensation, there is only one hurried Joint Secretary to deal with ports and he hardly finds the time to deal with the innumerable problems. Neither has the Development Adviser the time. In the view of those who suggest the idea of an autonomous board, the Port Trust Chairman need not be flying to Delhi every alternate day, as he does now.

The chairman and members of the board would make frequent visits to the ports to supervise their working and help expeditious implementation of projects. With the constitution of a board there need be very few people in the Ministry to deal with ports.

OIL MINISTER SPEAKS AT FINANCIAL WRITERS PARLEY

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 2.

The hint of an increase in petroleum products prices was given today by Mr P. C. Sethi, Union Petroleum Minister, when he said it had to be "a... time" in view of the oil companies' losses, which had so far run up to Rs. 1,100 crores. He, however, said "we shall try to make up the losses".

His remark "our losses are particularly heavy in kerosene and high speed diesel oil" was indicative that the increases might cover these two items.

The refineries' losses are due to hikes in oil prices as well as the present pattern of the price pooling system, under which indigenously produced crude oil is priced much lower than the imported crude. The refineries have also overdrawn on their credits from the banking system.

Mr. Sethi, who was addressing members of the Forum of Financial Writers, answered a number of other questions covering petroleum prices, oil exploration, fertilisers and drugs.

The major points made by him were: **Bombay High:** Oil production from Bombay High is likely to be stepped up from the projected level of 12 million tonnes by the end of 1982 to as much as 17 million tonnes under a deal being negotiated by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) with Compagnie Francaise Petroles (CFP) of France. The French company is seeking a five per cent share in the extra oil that might be produced over and above the 12 million tonnes.

Imports: Contracts for the import of 16.5 million tonnes of crude oil during 1981 have already been negotiated. The Ministry is trying to build up adequate reserves. "Whatever be the crisis elsewhere in the world, there is no crisis or shortage of oil supplies in India". The oil import bill will be Rs. 5,800 crores for 1981.

Exploration: The ONGC or Oil India will not be associated with the foreign oil companies chosen for off-shore and onshore exploration until oil is found. Both ONGC and Oil India have their hands full already.

World Bank loan: There will be no second thoughts on the consultants already decided by the Government for the Thal Vashet and Hazira fertilizer projects, whatever stand the World Bank may take. The World Bank has extended by one month the time for taking a decision on the proposal for a loan of \$250 millions for the Thal project.

While agreeing with the Finance Minister, Mr. B. Venkataraman's observation that the fertilizer plants' performance was poor—production of 2.2 million tonnes a year against the installed capacity of 3.6 million tonnes—Mr. Sethi, however, said there had been an improvement in November and December. If it was maintained, the production might go up by one lakh tonnes by the end of 1980-81.

Drug industry: There is difference of opinion between the Industry Ministry and the Petroleum and Chemicals Ministry over regularising the excess capacity in the drug industry. While the former feels that whatever capacity has been established must be regularised, the latter wants regularisation on the basis of performance during the past three years. While effecting regularisation, the ratio laid down between the production of bulk drugs and formulations must be maintained.

There are other issues relating to companies coming under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act. The matter will be discussed with the industry and a note prepared for the Cabinet.

The Minister is thinking of some method by which the number of formulations, amounting to 25,000 can be reduced to about 2,000.

Seismic surveys: Mr. Sethi said negotiations with foreign oil companies were expected to be completed by March this year, after which the selected firms would embark on seismic surveys. Exploratory drilling for oil might begin from September.

Explaining why it was decided not to associate ONGC or Oil India with the foreign companies in the exploration stage, the Minister said if that was done, it might be difficult to persuade the companies to come forward for exploration since they would be bringing their own capital, rigs and technical expertise. The question of associating ONGC or Oil India could be considered after the companies had struck oil.

About oil imports during 1981, Mr. Sethi said a contract had been signed with Iran for five million tonnes and with Saudi Arabia for 2.5 million tonnes. There was some difficulty in signing a contract with Iraq.

Mexico would supply 1.5 million tonnes, while Algeria had agreed to give 0.5 million tonnes. "We are negotiating with Algeria for one million tonnes more".

Kuwait would supply 0.5 million tonnes and UAE 1.5 million tonnes. The UAE Foreign Minister had agreed to supply more if necessary.

The Soviet Union would be supplying 2.5 million tonnes and had agreed to give 2.25 million tonnes of oil products. Libyan crude was not found suitable for Indian refineries, since it gave more fuel oil than the HSD oil and kerosene which India needed more. "We might get one million tonnes from Libya", which could be swapped with other crudes. Mexico had agreed to such swapping.

RAILWAYS EXPECTED TO FALL SHORT OF TRAFFIC TARGET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Union Railway Minister Kedar Pandey said on Saturday that the railways cannot achieve the 1980-81 target of 214.5 million tonnes of revenue earning traffic.

However, it may be possible to better the last year's performance of 193 million tonnes, he added, the figure approaching 200 million tonnes.

With the anticipated shortfall, the loss in money terms is likely to be between Rs 100 crores and Rs 125 crores.

Mr Pandey said the loading in the first seven months of the financial year was below target, but had begun to pick up since then. In November and December, it was higher, at about 18 MT each month, than in the corresponding period last year. In December, the loading was 4,023 wagons more than the daily average of the first seven months of the financial year, he said.

This trend was good for transportation of essential commodities like fertiliser, cement, POL, exportable iron ore, coal but not for foodgrains, for which the average daily loading was about 1,000 wagons less per day in November than the average for the first seven months.

Mr Pandey attributed the improving trend to changes in the management technique since the Railway Board was revamped. [as published]

If the law and order situation in the States was better, the railways would be able to give an even better account of themselves he said. In this connection he proposed that the Railway Protection Force be "armed with powers".

Mr Pandey proposed to have a conference with Chief Ministers of States shortly to seek their cooperation in preventing dacoities pilferages and other anti-social activities affecting the railways. [as published]

Wagon Segregation

Mr Gujral, the new chairman of the Railway Board, said segregation of the wagon fleet was a management innovation which has improved railway functioning. The Jumbo rakes, constituting one-third of the wagon fleet, were being operated on the

'express' stream of traffic, and were fitted with roller-bearings and centre buffer couplers.

Mr B. Lal, Member (Mechanical) in the Railway Board, said the railways would have 13,000 new wagons by the end of the financial year. As many as 30,000 wagons of the existing fleet were "over-aged" and prone to "sickness". Of the 13,000 new wagons, 6,000 had already been procured. He said railways were paying the manufacturers a 40 to 45 per cent increase in price to get new wagons, besides certain other amenities like bank credits.

Mr Pandey said the need was for 1,10,000 new wagons by the end of the sixth Plan period, and for electrification of 2,800 route-kilometres. At present, 5,200 route kilometres are electrified. There is to be emphasis on phasing out the 7,000 steam engines with the railway fleet, he added. [as published]

CSO: 4220

'PARTY SOURCE' QUOTED IN DEVELOPMENTS IN CPI

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 4 Jan 61 p 12

(Text)

THE CPI's decision to participate

In the Left Front-sponsored maiden rally on December 22 was taken despite strong opposition from within the party. According to a party source, the CPI executive took the decision by a narrow margin of one vote.

The source said that among those who opposed the move were Mr Ramakrishna Roy and Mr Gurudas Dasgupta, who were till then known as strong supporters of Mr Birwanath Mukherjee, secretary of the party's West Bengal State Council. They were supported among others by Mr Gopal Banerjee and Mr Ranen Sen.

The CPI decision to send only Mr Birwanath Mukherjee, Mr Gopal Banerjee, Mr Ranen Sen and Mr Gurudas Dasgupta for any negotiations with the CPI(M) was taken following this division in the party. These four represented the different shades of opinion in the party towards the CPI(M). Those who had opposed the participation in the December 22 meeting had argued that the Left Front need not have organised any meeting at all to counter the demonstration which was being organised by only a faction of the Congress (I). It could have organised street corner meetings and processions.

It was also stated that the CPI's participation would imply that it was fully supporting the policies of the Left Front Government when, in fact, the CPI had serious reservations about many aspects of the policies, including the support to multinational companies and the speedy procurement programme.

According to the source, the pro-CPI(M) elements in the CPI, including Mrs Geeta Mukherjee and Mr Sukumar Gupta, were convinced that sooner or later Mrs Gandhi would topple the Left Front Government and, subsequently, when the Left Front would fight the elections, the CPI would be included in it.

The pro-Dange group in the party, however, wanted that instead of becoming a partner in the new

Left Front, the CPI should try to set up a Left and democratic front comprising not only the Left parties but also the Congress (I) and the "progressive" section in the Congress (I). In this, there was no significant difference between their stand and that of the All India Communist Party.

However, not all the "Dangaites" have yet joined the AICP because they feel that the CPI was bound to change its present political line of opposition to Mrs Gandhi at the next party congress, scheduled in October, under the pressure of both internal and international politics. In this connexion, the Dange group points out that Mr Brezhnev had described Mrs Gandhi as "a unique statesman".

A spokesman of this group said that during a recent visit to Vietnam, a CPI delegation was told that the Vietnamese Communist Party looked upon Mrs Gandhi as a close ally and the only remaining anti-imperialist leader in South Asia.

Another reason why all the "Dangaites" have not joined the AICP was that the new Communist Party was set up in a hurry. Previously, all the members of the Dange group had agreed to coordinate their activities. But this was not done when the AICP was set up. It was "an unilateral decision" taken by a few, according to the spokesman.

Moreover, the expectation that Mr Dange himself would lead the exodus from the party was belied. Asked why Mr Dange had stayed on in the CPI, the spokesman said that probably he did not want to take the responsibility of splitting the party, especially since he has always talked of building Communist unity. As a founder-member of the Communist Party in India, he still wanted to bring all the Communists together under the CPI's programme. However, both the AICP members and the Dange group in the CPI say that although Mr Dange's body was in the CPI, his soul was in the AICP.

BENGAL CONGRESS(I) FACTIONS PLEDGE UNITY

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 4 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The leading members of the two rival factions in the West Bengal Congress (I) pledged to work unitedly during an unscheduled meeting with Mrs Gandhi at Raj Bhavan, Calcutta, on Saturday.

Among those present were Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Mr Barkat Ghani Khan Chaudhury, Mr Ajit Panja, Mr Subrata Mukherjee, Mr Somen Mitra and Mr Nurul Islam. Mr Khan Chaudhury, who took the initiative in arranging the meeting, told Mrs Gandhi that the two groups were giving their word that they would not quarrel any longer.

Mrs Gandhi reportedly made a few comments. Most of the time she listened to the two sides in silence and finally asked them to work unitedly so that the party could gain in strength.

Mrs Rajendra Kumari Vajpayee, AICC (I) general secretary, who is in charge of West Bengal affairs, requested the Pradesh Congress (I) president, Mr Ajit Panja, to take steps to open a party office in Calcutta. Without referring to Mr Subrata Mukherjee by name, Mr Panja said that if any leading member organized demonstrations on his own, it created difficulties for the party.

To this, Mr Mukherjee said that if the Pradesh Congress (I) Committee remained inactive, someone in the party had to do something, otherwise, the people in the city and in the districts would continue to suffer at the hands of the CPI (M). Mr Mukherjee also said that none of the murders mentioned by Mr Jyoti Basu in his recent letter to the Prime Minister were "political murders".

Mr Somen Mitra suggested that the in-fighting would stop if certain norms were fixed by the party leaders.

CSO: 4220

VAJPAYEE ASKS GANDHI TO NAME DEBATE ISSUES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jan 81 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, January 4 (UNI).

The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, today asked the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to identify the national issues on which she wanted to have a dialogue with the opposition parties.

In his first press conference held after the BJP national convention in Bombay last week, the BJP president said that Mrs. Gandhi had made repeated references to the opposition having taken a path of confrontation with the ruling party.

Mr. Vajpayee said she had also expressed her desire to meet opposition leaders to discuss various national issues with them and had described these problems as being beyond any one organisation or one party.

While it was good to hear Mrs. Gandhi talk about "co-operation and not confrontation--because she has all along been quarrelling with every single party including her own--we wish she had practiced what she is now preaching when she was herself in the opposition," Mr. Vajpayee said.

Mr. Vajpayee said that while in the opposition, Mrs. Gandhi considered various agitations to be indicative of dissatisfaction with the government. She had no hesitation then in saying that if the government committed mistakes, why the opposition should not take advantage of it.

He said now she considered "even spontaneous mass movements to be the result of evil designs of the opposition".

The BJP president said those in his party were fully conscious of the need of mutual consultations with the government on major national issues. It was for this very reason that the BJP had decided to join the national integration council without any hesitation.

/Mr. Vajpayee said their experience with Mrs. Gandhi, however, had been that her desire for consultation with the opposition was more propaganda rather than a genuine attempt to find a solution to the country's problems./ [in boldface]

"She does not take the opposition into confidence, so much so that she does not even frankly express her opinion. All she wants is the opposition's endorsement of whatever policies she may be pursuing".

Security Issue

The BJP president wanted to know whether Mrs. Gandhi considers threat to the country's national security as a national issue worth discussing with the opposition. "If this was so, why had she not taken the opposition into confidence about the exact nature of threats and the steps being taken by the government to deal with the situation," he said.

Mr. Vajpayee agreed with the contention that the international situation had deteriorated and there were new tensions in the area such as the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the activities of the U.S. and its allies, particularly in the Gulf region.

He said that while a new situation had been created in the region which required India to be constantly on the alert, he did not view any immediate threat to India's security or territorial integrity. "But she is the Prime Minister and she must be knowing much more than what we know when she talks about external threats," he added.

Mr. Vajpayee charged Mrs. Gandhi of having spurned Pakistani President's offer for a "no war pact".

When asked whether any official offer had been made by Gen. Zia in this regard, he said the Pakistani President had announced this in the presence of the Indian ambassador. Diplomatic and other protocol inquiries could have been made to establish the veracity of the Pakistani offer, Mr. Vajpayee said.

Referring to the Assam agitation and the BJP's support to it, Mr. Vajpayee said "the ruling party did not seem to want our help in this regard."

He referred to a reported statement of the Prime Minister in today's newspapers where she allegedly stated: "There had never been any quarrel as to who is a foreigner in Assam. Everyone is agreed on that." The BJP president asked if this issue was as clear as the Prime Minister put it, then what was really the problem in Assam.

He said some of the national problems which needed an immediate dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition were the economic crisis, communal violence, atrocities on women and Harijans and the undertrials and invited the Prime Minister to start the dialogue.

PTI adds:

Mr. Vajpayee said it was difficult to believe that senior Congress (I) leaders like Mr. S. S. Mahapatra, general secretary, and Mr. A. R. Antulay, Maharashtra chief minister, could talk day in and day out about a change-over from the parliamentary to the presidential system without her approval.

He also said talks were currently in progress between him and leaders of the agitation in Assam on how the BJP could best support the agitation and help achieve the desired objectives.

TAMIL NADU DRAFT PLAN GIVES POVERTY, OTHER FIGURES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jan 81 p 23

[Text] Madras, January 4 (UNI): With more than three-fifths of its rural population below the poverty line, Tamil Nadu has "nearly the highest" number of poor in the country, according to the latest official estimates.

The estimates, included in the revised draft sixth five-year plan, put the number of rural people below the poverty line in the state at 62.98 per cent in 1980 against 52.52 per cent in August 1976.

The document says that though the state has had noteworthy achievements during the last three decades of planning, the benefits of economic development have not seeped down to the masses.

The document records a decline in the number of urban poor from 55.02 per cent in August 1976 to 52.22 per cent, now.

Employment Front

The document concedes the state's performance on the employment front has been dismal.

Unemployment in the state is estimated at 16.1 per cent against 8.5 per cent for the country as a whole. This, again, is the highest among the states in India.

The "impressive increase" in the number of schools and the number of pupils recorded during the last two decades "hides a disappointing feature of school education, namely the large number of drop-outs."

The primary objective of the plan, the document proclaims, should be to narrow down this difference in the distribution of wealth and income and the poverty line should be brought down at least to the median. This is proposed to be done by designing employment-oriented schemes, giving priority to small industries and labour-intensive industries and stepping up minimum needs programmes for the weaker sections of the community and other welfare measures.

SYNTHETIC OIL RESEARCH NOTED AT BOMBAY SYMPOSIUM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jan 81 p 5

[Text] The need to organise more research and development efforts in the field of petroleum-based products was emphasised today by Mr. S. Ketharaman, managing director, Indian Oil Corporation.

Inaugurating a two-day symposium organised by the chemical engineering department, IIT, Mr. Ketharaman said more attention should be paid to the development of synthetic base oils which had now received greater attention from industrially-advanced nations.

Mr. Ketharaman said the consumption of products like lubricants and petroleum specialities had a growth rate of eight to ten per cent in India. It was important to utilise them more efficiently and recycle them, whenever possible.

Dr. J. S. Anluwalia, director, OIC's research centre at Faridabad, said the consumption of lube oils and greases was considerably high at 1.8 per cent of the total petroleum products in India compared with the industrially-advanced countries. He recommended the introduction of modern testing and evaluation facilities for the lubrication industry.

The head of the chemical engineering department, Prof. V. C. Rane, welcomed the delegates, numbering 250 from all over the country.

CSO: 4220

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY OFFICIALS CHOSEN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jan 81 pp 1, 13

[Text] New Delhi, January 4 (PTI): Mr. L. K. Advani, Mr. Sikandar Bakht, Mr. Yagya Dutt Sharma and Mr. Jana Krishna Moorthi will be general secretaries of the Bharatiya Janata Party for the ensuing two-year term.

There will be five vice-presidents (Mrs. Vijaya Raje Scindia, Mr. K. S. Hodge, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, Mr. S. S. Bhandari and Mr. Jagannath Joshi), one treasurer (Dr. Hurlji Manohar Joshi), four secretaries (Mr. K. S. Thakre, Mr. Suraj Bhan, Mr. Arif Beg and Mr. Krishnalal Sharma), and 36 members. There are also 14 special invitees.

The entire composition of the national executive for the new term was announced by the party president, Mr. Vajpayee, at a news conference here today. The 50-strong executive (excluding the president) is a wholly nominated body—nominated by the president.

The party president said specific tasks would be assigned to the general secretaries and secretaries shortly.

Apart from the above office-bearers, the 36 members are: Mrs. Mohinder Kaur, and Mr. Shanta Kumar (both from Himachal Pradesh), Mr. Shanti Bhushan (from Delhi), Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Mr. Satish Agrawal (both from Rajasthan), Mr. Baldeo Singh (J and K), Mr. Om Prakash Tyagi (UP), Mr. Jagdambi Prasad Yadav and Mrs. Sukhada Pendey (Bihar), Mr. Haripada Bhagati and Mr. Vishmukant Shastri (West Bengal), Dr. Bhai Mahavir, Mr. J. P. Mathur, Mr. V. K. Malhotra and Mr. Kanwarlal Gupta (Delhi), Mr. Chinpuria, Mr. Satya Narayan Jatiya and Dr. Abdul Hamid Qureshi (Madhya Pradesh), Mr. Madhav Prasad Tripathi and Mr. Ram Prakash (UP), Mr. Uttamrao Patil and Mr. Mahadev Shivahankar (Maharashtra), Mr. Ram Naik and Mrs. Jayawanti Mehta (Bombay), Mr. Rama Rao and Mr. Bangaru Laxman (Andhra Pradesh), Mr. Jaswant Singh, (Rajasthan), Mr. O. Rajgopal (Kerala), Mr. Makarand Desai (Gujarat), Mr. Karia Munda (Bihar), Mr. Lakheshwar Gohain (Assam), Dr. Baldev Prakash and Sardar Brijendra Singh (Punjab), Mr. Vishvabhushan Harichandam (Orissa), Mr. Bhandare (Goa) and Mr. Subhiah (Karnataka).

The 14 special invitees are: Mr. Kalraj Mishra (UP), Mr. Vasant Bhagwat, Mrs. Sumtibai Suklikar (Maharashtra), Mr. Bhaurao Deshpande (Karnataka), Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, Mr. Kidar Nath Sahni and Dr. N. M. Ghatate (Delhi), Mr. Chaman Lal Gupta (J and K), Mr. Ashwini Kumar (Bihar), Mr. Ramesh Kumar Mishra (Assam), Mr. Nathlal

Zagda (Gujarat), Mr. Pyarelal Khandelwal (Madhya Pradesh), Mr. Hari Prasanna Mishra (WB) and Mr. Kailash Pathi Mishra (Bihar).

Presidents of the state units, and leaders of legislature BJP parties in state assemblies and councils will be permanent invitees to the meetings of the national executive.

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DESAI SPEAKS AT MAHARASHTRA JANATA CONVENTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Jan 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Shriishkumar Nagar, January 4 (PTI).

The former Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, today reiterated that the Soviet President, Mr. Brezhnev, had advised him to take an anti-Pakistani stance during his regime.

Addressing the inaugural session of the first convention of the Maharashtra Janata party here, Mr. Desai said he had also read the denial of the Soviet government. It was wrong on their part to deny such "facts."

He said the Soviet Union was afraid of Pakistan's anti-Soviet stand in the context of Soviet armed presence in Afghanistan. Mr. Brezhnev's recent visit to this country was merely to seek India's co-operation to keep Pakistan in check.

The former Prime Minister said that the Janata party was totally against the Soviet armed presence in Afghanistan and they must withdraw from there at once.

Mr. Desai said he would disclose his plans for resolving the Assam crisis only if he was called by the government for discussions.

He said he had received a letter from the Union home minister, Mr. Zail Singh "15 days after it was posted" asking him to make his suggestions. "I have sent my reply saying that I will reveal my suggestions only if invited for discussions," he added. [as published]

Mr. Desai that opposition leaders had earlier written a joint letter to the Prime Minister on the same issue, but she had replied that the government was capable of dealing with the problem. [as published]

He congratulated leaders of the Assam agitation on conducting the agitation in a "peaceful" manner for such a long time despite all efforts by the government to "provoke them into violence."

The party president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, inaugurating the convention, spurned the Prime Minister's call for co-operation from opposition parties saying that his party would co-operate in formulating policies and programmes and not in the implementation of policies formulated by the ruling Congress (I).

Mr. Chandra Shekhar warned that the country was breaking up as a result of the government's repressive and exploitative policies and programmes and the Janata party had a pivotal role to prevent this break-up.

He said solution to the country's problems did not lie in a debate on the form of government which was being used by the Congress (I) leaders to divert the attention of the people.

The party, in a resolution, has expressed its "lack of confidence" in the tauka committees appointed by the Maharashtra government to carry out drought relief measures.

The resolution also called for writing off loans of farmers cultivating rain-fed land and sufficient supply of essential commodities through the public distribution system.

Another resolution maintained that the common man was harrassed by inflation, rising prices, the deteriorating law and order situation and atrocities on women, dalits and Adivasis, and pointed out that prisoners had been blinded and agitating blind men lathi-charged in front of the Prime Minister's residence in Delhi.

The government had failed to solve the foreigners' issue in Assam, and had been unable to take steps to formulate a policy on wages after consultations with central trade unions.

Relations with India's neighbours and other non-aligned countries had been spoiled owing to the government's policy on Afghanistan and other issues.

The people had begun to express doubts about whether the Congress (I) governments at the Centre and in the states would be able to deliver the goods in view of all these "failures", and the Janata party alone could be the focal point of an alternative to the ruling party, it added.

These and other resolutions, released to the press by the party general secretary, Mr. Hasmukh Ppadhyay, will be placed before the delegates' session tomorrow.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Mr. Morarji Desai were given a rousing reception as they arrived here this morning. [as published]

The two leaders were lustily cheered as they were taken in a decorated chariot, drawn by a tractor and a pair of horses, from Shahada town to the venue of the session. People in this border region of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh thronged the three-km route from early morning and raised slogans as the chariot moved at a snail's pace, being stopped at a number of times to enable them to offer garlands to Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Mr. Desai.

The 15,000 capacity pandal was jam-packed much before the inaugural session began. The entire township and the route from Shahada wore a festive look.

DIFFICULT PERIOD SEEN AHEAD FOR INDIAN ECONOMY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Jan 81 p 15

[Text] India's economy is characterized by heavy dependence on imported oil, widespread infrastructural bottlenecks, and an agricultural performance that remains highly dependent on the weather. Consequently, real Gross Domestic Product declined by about three per cent in fiscal 1979-80 in the wake of a doubling of oil import costs and a severe drought that depressed agricultural output and aggravated energy supply bottlenecks.

The Government of Mrs Gandhi has responded to the poor economic showing by enacting measures aimed at alleviating the infrastructural bottlenecks, reducing dependence on imported oil, and dampening the recent surge in inflationary pressures. Economic prospects of 1980-81 and thereafter will depend to a large degree on the success of these measures and the Government's determination to see them through.

India's poor economic showing last year was in sharp contrast to the real economic growth rate of nearly 5 per cent achieved in 1978-79 and the 7.7 per cent posted in 1977-78. The major causes were a 10 per cent crop in agricultural output triggered by the drought and a stagnant industrial performance attributable to political uncertainty, labour unrest, and power and transport bottlenecks.

A return to positive real economic growth is envisaged for the current year; indeed the country's Sixth Five-Year Plan—including 1980-81 and running through 1984-85—has targeted an average annual real economic growth rate of 5.3 per cent, with annual growth of 4 per cent in agriculture and 8 to 9 per cent in industry. To achieve such results, the authorities plan to emphasize the development of agriculture, power, transport, domestic energy sources, and job creation.

India's 1980-81 Budget underscores the new approach by boosting public spending on oil exploration by almost 35 per cent and increasing investment in the State-owned coal and steel industries by 33 per cent (although public investment in electric power will rise by only 11 per cent). Resources have been allocated to improve rail transport and the Government is committed to enhancing management efficiency in key State industries. In the agricultural area, the authorities are likely to sustain their efforts to increase irrigation, introduce higher-yield seeds, and expand fertilizer use. Finally, to spur sluggish private investment in industry, the Government has relaxed licensing restrictions to allow private productive capacity to expand. It has also moved to permit increased foreign technological collaboration and has adopted various fiscal incentives.

Real GDP growth in the current fiscal year, according to an article in INTERNATIONAL FINANCE, is projected at 6 per cent--sharp rebound from the negative growth in fiscal 1979-80. Plentiful rainfall--still the lynchpin of agricultural performance--will permit agricultural growth of 10 to 11 per cent. Although the public sector enterprises are performing more strongly than last year, industrial production has remained stagnant as a result of persistent bottlenecks, reduced agricultural incomes, brought on by last year's drought, and the world-wide economic slowdown. The abundant rainfall this year has alleviated the infrastructural bottlenecks somewhat by boosting the supply of hydroelectric power. But the main problem is one of inadequate infrastructural capacity, which will limit industry's growth rate to 3 to 4 per cent in 1980-81 and affect output over the medium term.

Looking to 1981-82, the agricultural growth rate is expected to return to more normal 2.5 to 3 per cent, assuming favourable weather. If infrastructural bottlenecks continue to ease and the official policies succeed in spurring private sector enterprise a 6 to 8 per cent growth in industrial output is possible. With these assumptions, GDP growth would be about 3.6 per cent in fiscal 1981-82, suggesting that the Government's Five-Year Plan targets are rather optimistic.

The last fiscal year marked the end of a period of relatively low inflation. Wholesale prices in 1979-80 increased by an average of 16.7 per cent, after nearly zero wholesale price inflation in 1978-79. The resurgence of inflation was caused by an excess supply of money. The Government budget deficit ballooned in 1979-80 because of a drought-induced spurt in Government spending and reduced revenues associated with a weak economy. As a result, the rate of money supply (M2) growth--which had been 20 per cent in each of the two previous years--only fell to about 17 per cent. At the same time, the demand for real money balances declined sharply in response to falling real income, and the resulting excess supply of money put upward pressure on prices. A large rise in the price of traded goods, particularly of imported petroleum produces, added to the upward pressure.

Although planned reductions in Government subsidies will exert upward pressure on prices in 1980-81, such cuts should improve the longer-term outlook for inflation by reducing the Budget deficit and permitting a lower rate of domestic credit expansion. If money supply growth approximates its 1979-80 pace in the current fiscal year, and the demand for real money balances picks up as real income climbs, the rate of wholesale price inflation may drop to about 13 per cent in 1980-81. Further significant moderation in inflation appears unlikely in fiscal 1981-82.

India's trade balance worsened considerably last year. The country's trade deficit widened from \$1.3 billion in 1978-79 to \$2.8 billion in 1979-80. Export volume fell slightly, owing mainly to the weak domestic economic showing and labour problems, but also because of the de-emphasis of exports by previous Governments. Import volume growth was moderate, reflecting depressed domestic income and caution in the implementation of the Government's more liberal import policy. In value terms, exports rose only 8 per cent last year, while imports jumped nearly 25 per cent. The higher import bill reflected higher prices for all major imports, but was primarily the produce of sharply higher oil and fertilizer import costs.

Compounding the problem was the prolonged political agitation in Assam, one of India's three major oil-producing areas, which halted production and further increased India's oil import requirements. Consequently, the petroleum import bill

more than doubled to \$4.75 billion. Heavy inflows in the form of workers' remittances from abroad offset the trade shortfall only partially, leaving India with a current-account deficit of \$750 million, a sharp reversal from the \$500-million surplus in fiscal 1978-79.

The deteriorating external-payments situation has also manifested itself in an alarming decline in India's international reserves since the beginning of 1980. To address the problem, the Government has taken steps to foster export-oriented activity. It is also seeking to step up domestic oil production by inviting foreign firms to participate in exploration and development. And it is attempting to reduce the oil import bill by obtaining concessional terms from OPEC members. In other efforts to improve its balance of payments, India is acting to boost oil-seed output, spur the production of such products as cement and steel (currently imported in large quantities), encourage Indians abroad to transfer home larger earnings, and solicit direct investment from OPEC. India's liberalized import policy, which is aimed at enabling industry to obtain needed inputs, will continue, but imports deemed unnecessary (such as consumer goods) will continue to be restricted.

Despite these initiatives, India's payments balance will probably deteriorate further in fiscal 1980-81 and again in 1981-82. Persistent power shortages, transport bottlenecks, and growing domestic demand for commodities, together with the worldwide economic slowdown, are likely to depress sales abroad. Total exports are thus expected to increase by 10 per cent, at best, in 1980-81. Imports of such products as steel and cement should decline as domestic production picks up, and non-oil imports will likely be restrained because of balance-of-payments pressures. But total import costs will still rise by 25 per cent or more largely because of higher-priced oil.

The prospect of rapid external-account worsening is especially disturbing at a time when net foreign aid disbursements are falling off. External aid was sufficient to finance the 1979-80 current-account gap, even permitting total reserves to rise somewhat. But the deficits anticipated for the next few years will likely exceed net aid disbursements, given the unfavourable aid climate. Unless imports are cut back substantially or aid commitments boosted sharply, India may have to seek increased IMF funds (to supplement the \$1.04 billion recently provided through the IMF's Compensatory Financing and Trust Fund facilities) or turn to the world capital markets to avoid a large loss of international reserves. Even so, India's reserves are expected to decline to less than six months of import cover by the end of 1981-82.

CSO: 4220

INDIAN FINANCE MINISTER MEETS PRESS IN COLOMBO

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Jan 81 p 5

[Text]

COLOMBO, Jan 4 (PTI).
FINANCE Minister R Venkataraman said here tonight that both India and Sri Lanka were "genuinely interested" in strengthening and building up economic ties.

He told Indian correspondents at the end of his first round of talks with the Sri Lanka Finance Minister that relations between the two countries were "very friendly" and there was absolutely no misunderstanding whatsoever.

His talks, he said in answer to questions, went off well and were smooth. They had succeeded in identifying areas of co-operation, particularly in regard to district development plans. These would serve to "re-establish confidence".

Asked about the reported US proposal for rest and recreation facilities for its services in Sri Lanka, the Minister said his information was that there was "no such proposal".

He said he was carrying a message for President Jaye Vardene from the Prime Minister and would deliver it to him on Tuesday when calls on him.

His counterpart Mr Romulo De Mel told newsmen that co-operation between India and Sri Lanka was as "old as history."

Topics that figured at the talks included: Indian line of credit to Sri Lanka, promotion of joint ventures both inside and outside the free trade zone, Indian assistance to steel corporation and the industrial development and livestock boards.

The possibility of India increasing facilities for technical assistance and technical training for sugar technology fisheries and vocational training, was also discussed.

Other items discussed at the two-hour meeting related to Sri Lankan cooperation with the Re-

serve Bank and State Bank of India in credit schemes for the small and medium sectors in agriculture and industry.

Mr Venkataraman is the first senior Indian Minister to come to Sri Lanka since Mrs Gandhi returned to power last January. He has a crowded schedule to be highlighted by the signing of a fresh line of credit agreement for Rs 100 million (Indian).

Mr Venkataraman is being assisted in the talks by high-ranking officials of his team including the Governor of the Reserve Bank and the Chairman of the State Bank of India.

The talks are understood to be wide-ranging embracing varied economic issues affecting the two countries. These include an Indian outline of a plan to assist Sri Lanka in energising its rural economy through developmental effort.

Mr Venkataraman will call on the President and the Prime Minister on Tuesday when another round of talks is scheduled with Mr Romulo De Mel. He returns home the same day.

The Minister will visit Kandy and the Mahaweli development project tomorrow.

Briefing newsmen before his departure from Madras Mr Venkataraman said the question of strengthening the economic co-operation between India and Sri Lanka would figure in his talks with the Sri Lanka Government.

The problem of 'statelessness' of an estimated 2.5 lakh people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka is expected to be raised by Mr Venkataraman with the Sri Lanka Government.

The problem of stateless persons has been accentuated by the expiry more than a year ago of the 15 year period stipulated for the Shrivastava-Shastri agreement of 1964.

FIFTH WORLD TAMIL CONFERENCE MEETS IN MADURAI

Tamil Nadu Governor's Speech

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

MADURAI, Jan. 4.

The 55th World Tamil Conference opened today in this temple city and a vast concourse of people assembled at Valluvar Aranganam heard speakers led by the Tamil Nadu Governor, Mr. Sadiq Ali, praising the glory and antiquity of Tamil and its culture.

After paying an eloquent tribute to Tamil's catholicity, flexibility and expressiveness, the Governor said: "all this should make us both proud and humble — proud for obvious reasons, but it is good if we keep our pride within right limits and let it be used for wider ends".

Specifically, Mr. Sadiq Ali said, to absorb the vast explosion of knowledge taking place in the world of today, Tamil had to "throw its doors wide open for the influx of new words and new ideas" while of course preserving its distinctive characteristics.

The Governor declared "Tamilkural could not have sprung up from nowhere or from the head of one isolated individual independent of his surroundings and the culture in which he was brought up".

Mr. Sadiq Ali was inaugurating the seven-day conference and the international seminar on Tamil studies conducted by the International Association of Tamil Research. Scholars from 23 countries, who will be participants in the seminar, either as listeners or observers, and a number of educationists and intellectuals attended the glittering function.

Historic Event: The Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, who presided and other speakers representing a wide spectrum of political opinions in Tamil Nadu, hailed the conference, being held for the second time in the homeland of Tamil, as a historic event. The DMK, a major Opposition party in the State, however, has kept off

the meet and its leader, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, had declined to associate himself with it from the beginning.

Mr. Sadiq Ali said the mere fact that three of the four earlier meetings had been held in foreign countries would itself bring out favourably the international character of the Tamil conference.

Language, he pointed out was much bound up with the culture of a country and quoted a scholar as having said that "at least two out of three of the world's earliest civilisations turn out to be connected with people who spoke Dravidian languages". Tamil had been widely regarded as possibly the earliest cultured and most highly developed of the Dravidian languages. "Tolkappiyam", the earliest extant record of Tamil, was itself a good evidence of the antiquity and greatness of the language.

Referring to *Tirukkural*, the Governor said so great was its catholicity that it was claimed alike by the followers of Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism. He recalled Dr. Albert Schweitzer's observation that there hardly existed in the literature of the world a collection of maxims to which we find so much lofty wisdom (as in *Tirukkural*).

"How obscure and how catholic *Tirukkural* is, rings when it says — all men are here equal, differences among them are entirely due to occupations", the Governor said.

Religious Influences: Tracing the growth of Tamil literature, Mr. Sadiq Ali said there were times when it was largely secular, but there were other times when religion and spirituality left their deep impress on it.

The contribution of Jainism and Buddhism to Tamil was well-known. At a later period came Islam which added a new element into its religious thought. Christianity came last making its own distinctive contribution and bringing

with it the beginnings of the modern period.

Shardul Ram: The advent of British rule and foreign influences, Mr. Sadiq Ali said, introduced new literary forms and patterns like novel, short story, travelogue and biography, which gradually assumed great importance. The struggle for independence brought in its wake literary reawakening and Post-Independence *Shardul Ram* was the pioneer of the movement which freed Tamil from the bondage of scholars and pundits and brought it within the reach of the common man.

Shardul Ram's tradition had been carried forward by a host of modern writers, who had broadened the base of Tamil and enlarged its appeal to the common man, he said. The works of the late Dr. M. Varadarajan, while revealing profound scholarship, also had an appeal for the common man and infected him with a sense of value.

"Against the background of this rich cultural heritage, it is no wonder if the study of Tamil literature has aroused the active interest of the international academic fraternity", Mr. Sadiq Ali said, adding that almost all the major countries of the world had, in their academic institutions, Departments of Tamil Studies at different levels.

In the modern period, the Governor said, it was Gandhi who first laid stress on the development of regional languages. There were other sources of encouragement and development of Tamil after independence.

That the Tamil language and culture had, down the centuries, travelled abroad was an additional source of inspiration.

"The main source of strength of Tamil, besides being root in it is a vital language, flexible, expressive and capable of growth and expansion", Mr. Sadiq Ali said.

Tamil should be receptive to fresh ideas and terms, the Governor said. "That is how a language grows and embraces the trinity of human thought", he said.

Chief Minister Addresses Meeting

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Tamil Nadu Government will soon set up a World Tamil Sangam to foster links among Tamils living in various countries.

This was announced tonight by the Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, while presiding over the inauguration of the fifth World Tamil conference.

The Sangam would be composed of Tamil scholars, while the State Government would take care of the administration of the body.

He said a two-week function would be organised every year synchronising with the birth anniversary of C. N. Annadural specially for pursuing the objectives of the Sangam.

The Chief Minister referred to the view expressed by a Sri Lanka leader with whenever Tamils in any country faced trouble, members of the community the world over should extend their support.

Mr. Ramachandran said support would be strictly within the confines of language and culture, keeping off politics. He was emphatic that the conference was non-political and intended to discuss Tamil language, literature and culture. None would be allowed to raise political controversies.

He disagreed with the former Union Finance Minister, Mr. C. Subramaniam, that fresh letters should be taken into the Tamil alphabet since experts felt that want of suitable letters proved a handicap to the development of scientific terms in that language.

Alphabet Reforms

Mr. Ramachandran said English, which had only 26 letters, was reigning supreme and had been found suitable for expression in all branches of knowledge. Any reform should be towards reducing the number as children were finding it difficult learning them. He urged the experts to give their views on alphabet reforms.

The Chief Minister's 40 minute speech, which came at the end of the four-hour function, was in the nature of reactions to points made by speakers.

As Court Language

Mr. Ramachandran said the State Government would quicken the pace of introducing Tamil as the court language. He admitted there were wide variations in the State in the use of Tamil. The Government would endeavour to bring about uniformity in this respect as much as possible.

PRC, Sri Lanka Delegates

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Jan 81 p 9

[Text] Two Chinese nationals, speaking fluent Tamil, are among the foreign delegates attending the Fifth International Tamil Conference in Madurai.

Mr. Sun Kuo-Chiang, a 40-year old Tamil announcer of the Radio Beijing's Tamil programme beamed to South-east Asia, and 35-year old Mr. Chang Wei Chung, Member of the Chinese Institute for Research Studies on South-east Asia, Beijing, arrived here today from Delhi on their way to Madurai.

Mr. Sun Kuo-Chiang, who looked 15 years younger than his actual age, acknowledged the greetings of THE HINDU reporter at the airport, with folded hands uttering the Tamil word "Vanakkam".

Speaking in Tamil, he said, his job was to translate from Chinese language into Tamil the matter including news and comments for being broadcast. [as published] He also made the announcements and the actual broadcasts in Tamil. The Tamil broadcast over Radio Beijing, he said, was inaugurated on August 1, 1963. At present two programmes were being transmitted from Beijing daily between 7-30 p.m. and 8 p.m. and between 8 p.m. and 8-30 p.m.

Pride of Place of Tamil in Sri Lanka

The Tamil-speaking members of Parliament of Sri Lanka are fairly satisfied about the languages recognised for transaction of business in the House as simultaneous translation facility has been provided to all the members speaking Sinhalese, Tamil and English, according to Mr. M. A. Bakeer Markar, Speaker of the Sri Lanka Parliament.

Mr. Markar, who is an invitee to the International Tamil Conference, told newsmen at the airport before leaving for Madurai on Sunday that Sri Lanka Government had accorded National Language status to both Tamil and Sinhalese.

Mr. Markar, will read a paper on the position of Tamil language in Sri Lanka. The Speaker of the Sri Lanka Parliament, who is on a three-week visit to India, will later visit Delhi, Agra, Calcutta and Bangladesh.

CSO: 4220

SURVEY OF NORTHEAST FOREST RESOURCES COMPLETED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jan 81 p 5

[Text]

CALCUTTA, Jan 2—A survey of 50,000 sq. km of North-Eastern region, consisting of Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, for forest resources has been completed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

In Nagaland the forest area is 17 per cent compared to 66 and 62 per cent in Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh respectively. The value of forest produce of this region, computed at the obtaining price in 1972-73, according to an estimate of the period was 38.27 million rupees. This was in the all India context, barely 3.1 per cent of the total but regionally, it indicates the vast scope of social and agro-forestry development in the region.

However, due to certain difficulties, the developmental activities in the region have been tardy. Apart from lack of survey and attention to the problems of the area in the past,

another hurdle has been the fragmented nature of the control over forest areas.

The North-Eastern Council has, in recent times shown initiative in resource surveys as well as in promoting forest-based industries. Its pre-investment surveys have been done in Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya.

The survey on Manipur has established that more than 50 per cent of the total forest area is covered with trees, while 22 per cent is bamboo groves and the rest open forests. Based on these factors the survey has recommended establishment of newsprint plant, plywood factories, integrated pulp and paper mills, saw mills etc.

The survey on Tripura has borne out the fact that the bamboo resources of the State would be more than enough to ensure a pulp and paper industry with a minimum daily production capacity of 300 tonnes.

BRIEFS

NEW EASTERN COMMANDER--Air Marshal M.S.D. Wollen, PVSM, VM, has been appointed Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command, at Shillong with effect from January 3, 1981. In his last appointment, he was Deputy Chief of Air Staff in New Delhi. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 4 Jan 81 p 7]

WESTERN AIR COMMANDER--Air Marshal L. M. Katre, PVSM, AVSM and Bar, is taking over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command, New Delhi. Earlier, he was Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command, Shillong. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jan 81 p 13]

BUDGET IN FEBRUARY--New Delhi, January 4 (UNI): The budget session of parliament will open on February 16 with an address by President Sanjiva Reddy to a joint sitting of the members of both the houses. It is understood that the Union budget for 1981-82 will be presented by finance minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, on February 28 in the Lok Sabha. Later in the day, the budget papers would also be laid before the Rajya Sabha. Normally, the parliament does not meet on Saturdays unless it has special business to transact. Though February 28 happens to be a Saturday, the two houses would sit to facilitate the presentation of the budget, according to official sources. No date has yet been fixed for the presentation of the railway budget for the next financial year, but it is likely to be presented in the opening week itself. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jan 81 p 1]

UNION LEADER DIES--New Delhi, January 4 (UNI): Mr. Arjun Arora, a freedom fighter and a prominent trade union leader, died here this morning, following a heart attack. Mr. Arora, 68, was cremated in the afternoon. Rising to prominence as a trade union leader, he had organised in 1956 the historic strike by textile workers in Kanpur. One of the founder-members of the Congress socialist forum, Mr. Arora was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1960 to 1972. After Mr. Nehru's death, he was in the limelight for his association with the group of "Young Turks" which acted as a ginger group within the Congress party for bringing about speedy socio-economic transformation. In 1969, Mr. Arora was the first Congress MP to openly support the candidature of Mr. V. V. Giri for the country's presidency against Mr. Sanjiva Reddy. Born on October 5, 1912, Mr. Arora went to jail for the first time at the age of 14 for participating in terrorist activities against the British raj. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Jan 81 p 1]

INDUSTRIAL BANK CHIEF--New Delhi, Dec. 29. Mr. N. N. Pai, Custodian of the Corporation Bank, has been appointed Chairman and Managing Director of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). The appointment will take effect from January 1, 1981, according to an official release. Mr. Nileshwar Narayan Pai was born on April 15, 1922, and qualified as a chartered accountant securing the first rank in India. After a series of appointments as chairman and director of various companies, he took over as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Corporation Bank Ltd., Mangalore, in July 1975. He has been a member of the committee of directors appointed by the Reserve Bank of India for implementing the Tandon Committee norms, the Deputy Chairman of the Indian Banks Association and Chairman of the negotiations committee of Indian Banks Association for economic revision of wage structure of bank employees. [Excerpt] [Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Dec 80 p 7]

BOMBAY JANATA CHIEF--Dr. Shanti Patel has been unanimously re-elected president of the Bombay unit of the Janata party, according to a party press release here today. The Yuva Janata, Bombay, in a statement, congratulated Dr. Patel on his election and assured him co-operation. Mr. Jatin Joshi, president of the Bombay unit of the Yuva Janata, said that Dr. Patel's guidance in building the character of the youth would be very useful it. [as published] As the youth wing of the Janata party, the Yuva Janata would fulfil the expectation of the party high command, he assured him. Mr. Joshi appealed to the Yuva Janata workers to attend the convention on January 3 in Shada, Dhule district. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Dec 80 p 5]

ELECTORAL ROLLS REVISION--New Delhi, Jan. 2.--The Election Commission has ordered summary revision of electoral rolls in a number of constituencies with reference to January 1, 1981 as the qualifying date for holding by-elections to fill up vacancies in the Lok Sabha and various State Assemblies, reports UNI. [as published] There are 21 vacancies in the Lok Sabha. These include 12 from Assam and one from Meghalaya. The others are: Uttar Pradesh five, Rajasthan one Orissa one and West Bengal one. The vacancies in the Assemblies are Andhra Pradesh three, Assam two, Bihar five, Himachal Pradesh two, Karnataka one, Manipur one, Tamil Nadu one, Tripura three, Uttar Pradesh seven, West Bengal seven, Meghalaya two and Punjab one. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jan 81 p 9]

SCIENCE ACADEMY AWARDS--Varanasi, Jan 3 (PTI)--Fifteen young scientists including a woman today received the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) awards for 1980 from Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi during the inaugural session of the 68th science congress here. The INSA award given to scientists below the age of 32 for their "work of exceptional merit", carries a medal and Rs 6,500 cash. Three of the award-winners--Dr R Balasubramanian, Dr M A Barma and Mr Mahaday Nori are from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay. Others are Dr Prabha Agarwal of the University of Indore; Dr D V Amla, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow; Mr D Chakrabarti and Dr D Pandey of the Banaras Hindu University. Dr S S Mehetre of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapit, Srahuri, Dr Sudhir Paul of All-India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi; Dr S S Pillai of Calcutta Medical Research Institute, Mr E S P Reddy of Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad, Dr N Satyamurthy of Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Dr A K Saxena of University of Roorkee, and Mr V N Vasudeva of the Department of Mines and Geology, Bangalore. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Jan 81 p 5]

AWARDS TO SCIENTISTS--New Delhi, Dec. 29. Ten scientists have been chosen for the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for 1980 in six disciplines. The award in Physical Sciences will be shared by Prof. N. Mukunda of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Dr. N. S. Satyamurthy of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay. The following are the award winners in other disciplines. Biological Sciences: Prof. Asis Datta of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Dr. J. S. Singh of Kumaon University, Nainital. Engineering Sciences: Dr. V. S. Arunachalam of Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory, Hyderabad. Medical Sciences: Prof. R. Sridharan of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay. Earth Sciences: Dr. J. G. Negi of the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad and Prof. B. K. Sahu of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. No award has been given in Chemical Sciences for 1980. The Award was instituted in 1957 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to recognise outstanding scientific work done by scientists and technologists below 45 years of age. The value of the award in each discipline is Rs. 20,000. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Dec 80 p 11]

IAF EQUIPMENT DEPOT--Group Captain CL Malik assumed command of the No. 23 Equipment Depot, Air Force Station, Avadi, here on Monday. A ceremonial parade was organized at the base today in his honor. Gr Capt Malik had earlier held important posts in the administration branch at Maintenance Command and at Air Force Station, Pune. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Jan 81 p 12]

HARYANA CABINET EXPANDED--The Haryana ministry was expanded today with the inclusion of six ministers of cabinet rank and three ministers of state, bringing the overall strength to 22. One minister, Mr Ram Narain, who was looking after development, was, however, dropped. The new cabinet ministers are Mr K L Poswal, Mr Lachhman Singh, Mr Shamsher Singh, Mr Surjewala, Mr Rao Dalip Singh, Mr Mange Ram Gupta and Mr Des Raj. Mr Devinder Shanna, a deputy minister, was elevated to the rank of minister of state. Mr Shanti Rath, who was chief parliamentary secretary and Mrs Shakuntala Bhagwaria, the parliamentary secretary, are other ministers of state inducted into the ministry. The oath of office and secrecy was administered to the new entrants by the governor, Mr G D Tapase, at Raj Bhavan. Addressing a press conference after the swearing-in ceremony, the chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, justified the expansion of his ministry, saying that the workload for a smaller state was in no way less than that of a bigger state. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jan 81 p 9]

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

PAKLAY DISTRICT STATISTICS--Paklay District is in the southern part of Sayaboury Province and has a population of 40,000. There are two nationalities. The Lao Loum nationality is in the majority and there are only 13 Lao Soung families. The economic base of this district is wood. Forests cover nearly 80 percent of the land area. Of that, 20 percent is teak. Aside from that there are many different natural resources. There are more than 300 elephants. [Excerpt] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 5 Jan 81 p 3]

THOULAKHOM DISTRICT STATISTICS--Thoulakhom is one of 15 districts in Vientiane City and Province. It is densely populated with more than 34,600 people which include two major nationalities, Lao Loum and Lao Soung. More than 5 years ago, this district had been divided into two districts: Phanthaboun and Thoulakhom. The area of wet rice fields, which previously came to only 6,700 hectares has been increased to 7,415 hectares. Of this 360 hectares have been newly opened up and 150 hectares are fields that have been restored to production. Two water conservancy works have been built. Aside from this, the people of the district have paid attention to livestock raising and as of now there are more than 10,900 buffalo throughout the district, 13,200 oxen, more than 3,300 pigs and thousands of ducks and chickens. These are able to meet the needs for draft power and foodstuffs. In the salt works operation, which has been famous for generations, over the last 5 years there have been improvements and expansions that have achieved good results and more than 870 tons of salt have been produced. [Excerpts] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 31 Dec 80 p 2]

HOUN DISTRICT, STATISTICS, LITERACY--After the establishment and leadership of the study movement for public education on a broad scale and over a period of time to 23 December, the Houn District, Oudomsai Province administrative authorities have arranged a ceremony to formally announce the eradication of illiteracy among the multi-ethnic population. Houn District has 12 cantons, 133 villages and a population of 30,021. Of those, 27,366 have been certified as literate which is an average of 98 percent of the group targeted for elimination of illiteracy. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHOUAN PATHET LAO in Lao 27 Dec 80 p A 4]

SARAVANE PROVINCE LIVESTOCK--Over the last year, livestock of various types belonging to the people of Kaleum District, Saravane Province have been paid attention to and cared for. This has increased the numbers of the livestock a great deal. Buffaloes have increased by 1,490, pigs by 3,507, goats by 1,371 and sheep and chickens by 5,774. The people's livestock of that locality have increased so greatly and so rapidly because they know how to use science in livestock raising

and also because the local administrative authorities have joined together with the veterinary cadres in constantly keeping close to things. Another reason is that they have limited the killings of pregnant female animals or animals still capable of reproduction. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 3 Jan 81 p A 2]

OUTOMSAI PROVINCE LIVESTOCK--Over the past 3 years (1978-1980) various types of livestock of the multi-ethnic people in Houn District, Oudommai Province have been carefully paid attention to and have increased in number rapidly. As of now, throughout the district there are 10,052 buffalo, 2,166 oxen, 525 horses, 1,993 goats, 16,591 pigs and nearly 100,000 chickens and ducks. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 25 Dec 80 p A 3]

LOUANG NAMTHA PROVINCE STATISTICS, PRODUCTION--Sing District comprises 7 cantons, 94 villages and a population of 17,186. These are divided into three major nationalities and 5 races. These are: Lue, Northern Thai, Ko, Yao and Lao Theung. Of those, the Lao Ko number nearly 11,000. The people of Sing District have depended on their own labor to build new lives with high hopes. As of now, they have 3,000 hectares of wet-rice fields which have been improved. The people of the district have given up individual, scattered production to turn to socialist, collective production. They have set up agricultural cooperatives in nearly 22 villages which is an important factor in building the province's national economy. Aside from the primary cultivation of rice, the people of Sing District plant soybeans, peanuts, morning glory, garlic and sugar cane which bring good income in the district. Each year these goods amount to 500 tons which is enough to provide for the district and sell to other districts. Aside from expanding cultivation on a broad scale, the people are also expanding livestock raising on a daily basis and Sing District sells many thousands of kilograms of meat to the state each year. Before liberation, only the Lao Loum worked the wet-rice fields. As of now, 275 Lao Ko families, a mountain people, have new lives as wet-rice farmers. It may be said that Sing District is the first ranking agricultural production location in Louang Namtha Province. [Excerpts] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 27 Dec 80 p 2]

GNOMMALAT DISTRICT TAXES--Since the beginning of December, the multi-ethnic population of Ban Hai, Tha Phai Ban and Phit cantons of Gnommalat District, Khammouan Province have come in to pay agricultural taxes to the state with the rice they had harvested and stored. As of now, those three cantons have completed payment of more than 88 tons, which has exceeded the plans set by the district by more than 3 tons. In the movement to pay rice taxes to the state, the best performance was turned in by Phit Canton which had over 60 tons. When the figures are calculated as of the present, the multi-ethnic population of Gnommalat District have completed payment of taxes in 4 cantons out of 11 throughout the district. As for other localities, they are continuing to diligently pay their taxes to the state. [Text] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 25 Dec 80 p 1]

PHON THONG, CHAMPASSAK TAXES--After harvesting and storing their annual wet rice crop, the people in various localities of Phon Thong District, Champassak Province have brought in the rice they have calculated from their harvests to pay as taxes to the state in a spirit of joy and pleasure. The amount paid is over 33 tons. Along with that, they have also brought in their excess rice for sale to the state.

amounting to slightly over 9 tons. At the same time, the multi-ethnic population of Bachiang Chaleunsouk District of that province, also brought in their excess rice to sell to the state. According to initial figures as of now, the entire district has sold slightly over 5 tons of their rice to the state. [Excerpt] [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 25 Dec 80 p 1]

THOULAKHOM DISTRICT RICE SALES--From the beginning of November to the beginning of December, the farmers in eight cantons of Thoulakhom District, Vientiane Province have brought in paddy to sell to the state with voluntary self-awareness and in a wide-spread movement. During that time, they have been able to sell more than 41 tons of their surplus rice to the state. Of that, the best performance was turned in by the farmers of Pha Kho Canton who sold more than 10 tons of their surplus rice, completing the first phase. Presently the movement to sell rice to the state in the cantons throughout the district as well as other places in Vientiane City and Province is continuing in a joyous spirit and has achieved good results in using the produce to put into circulation for defending and building a strong, prosperous nation. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 31 Dec 80 p A 5]

VANG VIANG RICE SALES--In 1980, the Vang Viang District Trade Service, Vientiane Province have sent cadres bringing goods from their trade store to exchange for and purchase rice from the people in various cantons of the district. The exchanges of goods and purchases resulted in the acquisition of 156.174 tons of rice. The best performances involved Ban Xon Canton which sold nearly 60 tons of rice to the state, Vang Viang Canton with 39 tons and Na Mon Canton with 34 tons. [Excerpt] [Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 5 Jan 81 p 1]

SAVANNAKHET RICE TAXES--Recently, the multi-ethnic population of five cantons in Song Khon District, Savannakhet Province have voluntarily and self-consciously brought in rice for payment of agricultural taxes and for sale to the state as excess. As of now, they have paid 109 tons as taxes and have sold 138 tons to the state. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 8 Jan 81 p A 1]

SAYABOURY RICE SALES--From the beginning of November to the present, the people of various localities in Sayaboury Province have brought in rice that is in excess of family consumption for sale to the state. This totals 537 tons. Of that amount, the people of Phiang District alone have sold nearly 323 tons to the state. [Excerpt] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 8 Jan 81 pp A 3, 4]

CSO: 4206

PRESUMPTIVE OPPOSITIONIST VIEWS DECRIED

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 13 Dec 80 p 12

[Comment by Zhi Qiu [4249 4428]: "Do Not Hold Views of an Opposition Party"]

[Text] In a lecture on a special subject, Malacca State Councilor Datuk Tay Chin Geok appealed to the Chinese people to know clearly the special characteristics in the composition of Malaysian society and not to maintain the view that the Chinese are in the opposition, simply because the Malays belong to the ruling party.

Frankly, this inferiority complex exists among the Chinese everywhere; moreover, our administrative officers adopt a serious erroneous attitude by openly or covertly drawing a line separating the two nationalities.

So, is there no way to change this situation? The answer is not necessarily an absolute no. The Constitution stipulates that all three major nationalities enjoy a just and legal position; the difference is that during an election each side has gains and losses.

It is most unfortunate that the Chinese lag far behind in the field of political activities, and their weakness is particularly evident in their totally disintegrated community when they are faced with all sorts of challenges. Such a situation has affected other aspects of their livelihood.

However, even if the Chinese can treasure their own interests and position and fight for them, can they get them easily?

We are proud to be Malaysian citizens, but we should not merely grasp and utilize our rights. Just as Tay Chin Geok pointed out in his speech: "... In South Africa where the whites belong to the ruling party, the blacks are shouting protestations at the top of their lungs outside. But can the shouting bring about a spring? One can draw his own conclusion."

We must not become outsiders, but must take part in national politics. To do so, we must first of all have a strong political force as a requisite, which can only come about through a united Chinese community. Consequently, we must under all circumstances grasp every opportunity, and if we continue to be split among ourselves, we ourselves will be the people who will lead us to a dead alley eventually, and not anybody else.

9300

CSO: 4205

CIVIC LEADER COMMENTS ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 11 Dec 80 p 5

[Text] Chew Hock Thye, general secretary of the Malayan Chinese Youth League, addressed doubts to the government concerning the suppression and neglect of Chinese-language education. He posed the following questions: While there is an oversupply of primary schools, doesn't the government notice the overcrowding in urban Chinese grade schools? Or the shortage of Chinese grade schools in Chinese residential areas? Does the government think that the Chinese have no right to choose their own mother-tongue education?

Chew Hock Thye maintained that the government should sympathetically, reasonably, lawfully and fairly grant welfare and benefit to all citizens as its top strategy for national unity.

He stated that the Chinese positively agree to the government's policy to support the bumiputras, but the authorities should not overdo it or be too eager for success. He pointed out, for instance, that between 1971 and 1978, [Malayan] primary schools received government appropriations totaling 200 million Malaysian dollars, or 91 percent, while Chinese schools got only 10 million Malaysian dollars, or 7 percent. In the field of teachers' training, 26,802 Malayan teachers underwent training between 1970 and 1979, or 76 percent, as compared with 6,812 Chinese teachers, or 19.5 percent.

Chew Hock Thye firmly believed that if such similar deviations and discriminations continue to exist, the government's effort to achieve national unity through national educational policy is not only insincere but also self-deceiving, besides deceiving others.

Mr Chew made these remarks during a speech before a symposium organized by the educational committee of the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur tonight.

He held that it is quite difficult for a multinational nation such as Malaysia to seek a true and lasting solidarity among its people. As everybody knows, however, national unity is an extremely important base for a developing country in order to move forward to become an advanced nation.

He pointed out that after the 13 May 1969 incident, the government has spared no effort in implementing the work of national unity, formulating the "National Policy" and establishing the "Bureau for National Unity" one after the other. Ten years afterward, however, what has been achieved toward national unity? The answer is obvious to one and all.

Mr Chew asked why is it that 11 years after the tragic incident, Malaysia's three major nationalities remain bickering with and segregating from one another into "bumiputra" and "non-bumiputra" groups? Why is it that the Chinese regard themselves as "second-rate citizens" or even "third-rate citizens?" Why do certain Malaysians regard themselves as the "boss of the country" and non-Malaysians as immigrants? These problems deserve serious thought and urgent correction and improvement.

He continued that after the three major nationalities had joined forces and won independence without bloodshed, they adopted a national educational policy. Everybody who received an education after independence, whether in an English, Chinese, Malay or Indian elementary or middle school, was taught to love Malaysia, to show allegiance to the Paramount Ruler, to uphold the Constitution and to live harmoniously among all nationalities... Apart from a few die-hard elements, the Malaysians of the new generation, no matter whether their ancestors came from India, Indonesia or China, they all regard Malaysia as their own home and country, "born and bred here" and even to die here eventually.

However, he declared that seen from another angle, the government's educational policy apparently leans toward a one-single-language policy to attain national unity. In other words, the Malayan language is nationalized, but the Chinese language is "assimilated," absorbed into the system. Apparently the policy-makers believe that national unity can be achieved only through one language and one people. This kind of policy may be appropriate for a monoracial country, but it would not be proper to apply it to Malaysia which is a multiracial country. The reason is that implementation of such a policy would evoke a feeling of oppression and exploitation, and even rebellion, among the other nationalities.

Mr Chew reminded the authorities of an important point: The patience and understanding spirit shown by our three major nationalities during our struggle for independence was also Malaysia's state-founding spirit which must not be neglected by all Malaysian citizens. This spirit was mostly evidently reflected in Article 152 of the Constitution, which stipulates the Malayan language as the national language and at the same time affirms the study and application of the other mother tongues.

Finally, Mr Chew pointed out that we must teach our next generation to the effect that in our practical multinational society, if any nationality tries to wrest the due interests of another nationality, this would cause disharmony, suspicion and hostility, and all nationalities will suffer in the long run. Consequently, everybody who lives and works in Malaysia must learn how to exercise patience, understanding and fairness for the common good.

9300
CSO: 4205

NEPAL

BRIEFS

BIRENDRA TO EGYPT--Kathmandu, Jan. 3.--King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal will pay a State visit to Egypt next month a royal place statement said on Thursday night, reports Reuter. [as published] The statement did not specify the date of the visit, the first by the Nepalese royal couple to an Arab country. [Text] Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 4 Jan 81 p 5]

CSO: 4110

FRENCH TECHNICAL COOPERATION OFFERED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 81 p 5

[Text]

Mr. Paul Henry, French Ambassador to Pakistan, has said his Government is ready to broaden the spectrum of assistance to Pakistan in the field of technical know-how.

Addressing Executive members of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday, he said France was ready to provide facilities to Pakistan in the field of building, plastic, electrical equipment and the rolling stock industry and its operating technology in the railway sector.

At present, he said, France was exporting to Pakistan equipment for electric power generation and transmission and high-power industrial installations, industrial components and a full range of electric power plants.

He said it was an open choice for Pakistan to set up projects and determine imports and exports from France under the treasury loan granted to Pakistan by his country.

But equipment produced locally would not be financed under the credits extended by France, he added.—PPL

CSO: 4220

NATION'S IMPORT, EXPORT SOURCES REPORTED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 25 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

United States of America has emerged the biggest source of imports for Pakistan in first quarter of current fiscal year and has supplied 13.6 per cent of total imports during July to September 1980 period.

According to an official review USA supplied goods worth Rs. 177 billion out of total imports of Rs. 13 billion in first three months of 1980-81.

As against this, the total exports from Pakistan to USA was worth Rs. 79 million which was about six per cent of total exports of over Rs. five billion during July to September 1980 period.

Saudi Arabia was the other principal importer for Pakistan and mainly supplied crude oil worth about Rs. 1.2 billion which was 1.2 per cent of total import bill in first quarter of current fiscal year.

During the same period imports from Japan were worth Rs. 1.15 billion and comprised 8.8 per cent of total imports of Pakistan.

Other major importing countries for Pakistan were Kuwait, Iraq, U.K. Abu Dhabi, West Germany, Malaysia, Brazil, People's Republic of China, Italy, France, Argentina, Bangladesh, Singapore, Belgium, Netherlands, South Korea, Dubai.

In case of exports, Iran has emerged as the largest single buyer of Pakistan goods during July to September 1980 period when goods worth Rs. 625.8 million were exported there which constituted 12.7 per cent of total exports.

Japan has also been other major market for Pakistani goods where goods worth Rs. 442 million were exported which was 8.6 per cent of total exports.

Other major exporting countries were Saudi Arabia, West Germany, Hong Kong, U.K., Cameroon, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, India, Italy, Dubai, France, Switzerland, USSR, Mexico, Sri Lanka, China and Singapore.—PPI.

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF BALUCHISTAN EXAMINED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 81 p 7

[Article by Ghulam Tahir]

[Text]

QUETTA, Jan. 24: The requirements of higher education and trained manpower for Baluchistan used to be met by the University of the Punjab, Peshawar and Karachi. This being an inadequate arrangement higher education was restricted to the privileged class, thus the region was at a great disadvantage in the field of education to meet the growing development needs of the area.

On gaining Provincial status on July 1, 1970, the then Governor of Baluchistan, the late Lt. Gen. Riaz Hussain, promulgated an Ordinance for the establishment of the University of Baluchistan on October 18, 1970. Lt. Gen. Riaz Hussain had the distinction of being the first Chancellor of the University, while Mr. Justice Dorab Patel was appointed as first Honorary Vice-Chancellor of the University in addition to his own duties as a Judge of the Sindh-Baluchistan High Court.

The University started functioning in October, 1970 in administrative terms as it had no infrastructure. The office of the Vice-Chancellor was housed in a block of the former College of Mineral Technology which was reconstructed by the Federal Government. The Honorary Vice-Chancellor remained busy planning the infrastructure of the University beside organising future plans of the campus.

Academic functioning of the University started from March,

1971 with the opening of Departments of Physics, Chemistry and Geology at post-graduate level.

Being a provincial University it received a paltry sum of Rs. 5.50 lakh from the Provincial Government to begin with and could not make much headway due to meagre resources.

After a good deal of correspondence, the Federal Government agreed to transfer the entire building of the College of Mineral Technology and its residential accommodation covering about 150 acres, but half of the residential accommodation is still occupied by the employees of the Provincial and Federal Governments.

At present, the University has an area of 180 acres, the smallest on record in Pakistan, which is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the campus. The University administration has, however, proposed that in view of the future expansion of the University at least 800 acres of land should be acquired for the campus as early as possible to bring this University at par with the other Universities of the country.

Despite the financial constraints and meagre resources, the University administration has done a commendable job by introducing Arts and Science Faculties, and with great efforts has acquired the services of qualified and experienced teaching staff. It has now, a total

strength of 183 employees, including 140 members of the teaching staff.

The University has launched its own five-year plan. Under its development programme it has so far constructed four modern blocks for the Science Faculty, to accommodate the Departments of Geology, Physics, Mathematics and Biological Sciences, at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 crore.

The University has not yet been able to arrange a separate building for the library, which has a fine collection of 40,000 books now lying in a hall. The authorities are planning to have at least one lakh books for which a separate building will be provided.

A new development plan costing Rs. 300 million has already been submitted to the Federal Government. The projects include University hostel, gymnasium hall, purchase of 500 acres of land for the campus and another piece of land for the Law College building. The Law College is an integrated institution of the University which started functioning in 1972 with 100 students on roll. A piece of land for this purpose is being acquired in the Cantonment area.

The University has 17 affiliated colleges of Arts and Science, including one Medical College. A total of 2,500 students are at present on roll in the University. The institution is, however, facing the problem of shortage of qualified and experienced teaching staff as they are reluctant to come to this remote town. Lack of discipline among the students who are not familiar with the

campus life is another problem which cannot be solved in one night.

Brig. Agha Akbar Shah, who has been reappointed Vice-Chancellor for a second term, has taken great pains to restore discipline and create proper conditions for the students to concentrate on their studies. He is also doing all that is possible to improve the quality of instruction by acquiring the services of experienced and qualified teaching staff.

Despite financial limitations they have, through their dedicated efforts, given a new look to the campus which now has three hostels, one for girls and two for boys, a new science block and a beautiful mosque.

The University has some basic deficiencies and inadequacies which stand in the way of all-round development. The essential infrastructure has not yet come up. All the teaching departments, laboratories, library and administrative academic and examination offices are huddled together in one block.

Substantial funds are required for library books, laboratory equipment, furniture for class rooms and hostels, transport and maintenance. The present grant is too meagre to meet even the bare requirements of the University.

Essential facilities necessary for campus life are not available in the absence of which academic, cultural and recreational activities are badly suffering.

Brig. Agha Akbar Shah, the Vice-Chancellor, has asked for an immediate grant of eight crore rupees from the Federal Government to make this premier educational institution of the Province function smoothly

and effectively.

It is indeed a challenge for the University Grants Commission, to ensure adequate funds for proper development of this institution to its full stature. Not only that, the UGC should also take steps for quarterly release of its grant without delay. This University has suffered a lot in the past because of inordinately delayed release of funds.

This University has a special role as the only seat of advanced education in the largest Province of the country. Therefore, in addition to performing its conventional functions such as teaching and research it has to act as the focal point of all development efforts in the Province which is undergoing a rapid change due to multifarious reforms introduced by the present Government.

The Vice-Chancellor told the 'Pakistan Times' that the Baluchistan University would be different from the other Universities as it would have the distinction of running its own research institutions for Arid Zone, which would be set up at a cost of 15 million dollars. The Arid Zone Research Institution is a must for this University as the Province of Baluchistan is basically an arid region due to shortage of water—out of about one crore 34 lakh acres of cultivable land available in the Province only, 32 lakh acres area is under cultivation. The Arid Zone Research Institution will work for creating means to bring all available cultivable land under the plough despite limitations of water resources. If it succeeds its efforts would revolutionise the economy of the Province which, in turn, would benefit other regions of the country.

INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Jan 61 p 1

[Text]

The Federal Government has sanctioned two tractor manufacturing plants, each of 10,000 production capacity per annum, in the public sector, the Federal Production Minister, Lt.-Gen (Retd) Ghulam Hassan Khan, disclosed in Karachi yesterday.

Talking to newsmen, he said announcement about the sanction of the tractor plant in the private sector would be made by the Government later.

He said that the tractors would be Fiat and Massey Ferguson makes.

The Minister said that at present 15,000 to 20,000 tractors were being imported annually in the country, he added that by 1965-66, 50,000 to 60,000 tractors would be marketed annually in the country.

Gen Ghulam Hassan said that one plant would be set up in Lahore and the other in Karachi.

LASBELA TEXTILE MILLS

Another report adds: Lasbela Textile Mills, a Pak-Iran joint venture at Uthal, in Lasbela district of Baluchistan, (cost Rs. 66 crore) will go into full production by the end of March next.

This information was given to the Federal Production Minister, Lt.-Gen (Retd) Ghulam Hassan Khan, by the Managing Director, Pak-Iran Textile Limited, Mr Rashid H. Lodi, yesterday during his visit to the mills at Uthal, 78 miles away from Karachi.

He further informed the Minister that the annual production capacity of the mill would be 17-21 million yards of shirting and 9.84 million yards of sheeting of cotton fabrics and 1.3 million yards of poplin and 1.3 million yards of lawn (blended fabrics). It will also produce 1.47 million lbs of surplus yarn.

The annual sales revenue of the mills would be Rs. 341.84 million and the annual export earnings Rs. 171.30 million. It would provide employment to 1,548 persons and local labour force was being imparted training in all trades.

After visiting the mills, the Minister told newsmen that "it should be viable and profitable concern". It would be his endeavour to provide sufficient funds for its working capital.

RAHILL MILL

The Managing Director later told newsmen that a similar textile mills has also been set up at Rahill, near Quetta, under the management of Pak-Iran Textile Limited.

He said that 60 per cent of the machinery in weaving and 25 per cent spinning were local products. He added that 600 out of 1,500 looms were Pakistani manufactured.

He said the mills incurred a loss of Rs. four crore last year. Working of Lasbela mills was being reorganised to correct inadequacies.

CAR MANUFACTURING

The Minister said that small car manufacturing scheme, in collaboration with Japanese concern, Suzuki, has also been finalised and will come up for approval in the next session of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (NEC).

The plant would produce about 25,000 light vehicles annually, including small cars, vans and pickups. Eventually, it would produce heavy vehicles also.

SANCTIONED PROJECTS

Gen Ghulam Hassan Khan said that more than 50 per cent of the sanctioned projects were implemented and "got off the ground."

He said that complete data was now available with the government about the implementation of the sanctioned projects (1,500 industrial projects, involving an investment of Rs. 4,500 million sanctioned during the last 18 months to the private sector).

BELA ENGINEERS

The Minister also paid a visit to Bela Engineers, situated about 30 kilometre northwest of Karachi in Lasbela district of Baluchistan.

Bela Engineers are the manufacturers of Bedford Diesel Engines in Pakistan, producing 3 models of this engine the 6-cylinder, 66-horsepower and the 4-cylinder 60 horsepower.—AFP/PTI

VIOLENCE AT STUDENT UNION ELECTION DEPLORED

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 15 Dec 80 p 33

[Article: "Who is Responsible for Disorder in Student Union Election?"]

[Text] Recently, the student union election took place in the Engineering University of Lahore. The main rival parties were the Quade-E-Azam Students Federation and the Islamic Students Union. The elections were peaceful and both groups were even in their victories. However, there were disturbances later during which fire arms were used resulting in some students getting wounded and one death--thus depriving the country of a future engineer.

Disorders during student union elections are not a new development. It has become a tradition now to have such hot-headed activities during the election period. The purpose of student unions is to have the students solve their own problems but right now the student unions have become a problem in themselves.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, once in a speech warned the students not to become puppets of any political party, telling them to use their energies to acquire a good education and to serve the country. Alas, we have forgotten the Founder's advice now. Most of the student groups in our country are puppets of some political party or group and these political groups exploit the young men to attain their own ends.

It is a well-known fact that a number of teachers in most colleges and universities are involved in anti-Islamic activities. At times they openly express their feelings against Islam and Pakistan. At the time of student union elections these people try to bring students to their sides and gain control over them.

Several times in the past when the police raided student hostels in colleges, students used fire arms against them. Where did the arms and ammunition come from? Who supplies these students with large quantities of fire arms? Do the students procure these arms themselves or are there groups who supply the students with fire arms for their own vested interests? Which power is behind all this? We have to think about answers to these questions.

We have to admit that most Pakistani young men are patriotic. They will make any sacrifice for their country or religion. These students played an exemplary role in the 1977 movement of Nizam Mustafa Asli Allah va Allia. These patriotic students could not tolerate any anti-Islamic or anti-Pakistani talk from those immoral people.

Even though they were threatened with dire consequences whenever they expressed their love for their country and the religion.

The present government has vowed to follow Islamic principles in its rule and is taking necessary steps in this direction. It is imperative that our government make arrangements for these heretic, infidel teachers and students. When these elements act against Islam and the country they should be brought to account. Thus, Pakistan will become a stronghold of Islamic religion. It would also fulfill the great poet Iqbal's prophecy in this regard.

The Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, Gulam Jeelani, has already ordered an investigation of these incidents. He should also do something about the heretic teachers and students in various colleges and universities to erase this evil totally. This would relieve the worries of parents of students in attendance at these schools and colleges, making them academic institutions in the real sense.

7997

CSO: 4203

DERATIONING OF SUGAR IN MARCH LIKELY

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 24 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

The Government is understood to have agreed in principle to deration sugar sometime in March next.

The decision has been taken in view of the sugar production which is reported to be quite sufficient for the home consumption.

Informed sources said that the commodity after its free sale in the open market will, however, be available at a fixed price to be decided by the Government.

Rough estimates indicate that total production of sugar in Sind may roughly be 3.25 lakh tons. Besides, Punjab is likely to produce about 3.50 lakh tons. The NWFP will also add some sizeable quantity, which may be around one lakh tons.

Total availability of sugar during the current season will, therefore, be about eight lakh tons, plus some carry-over from the imported sugar purchased last year. About 2.5 lakh tons of sugar was imported last year.

Sugar rationing was introduced in the country a decade ago.

CSO: 4220

PRC CHIEF COTTON PURCHASER

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 25 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

MULTAN, Jan 24: The People's Republic of China is the chief buyer of Pakistan's cotton and has this year so far concluded agreements for the purchase of seven lakh bales against five lakh bales purchased last year.

This was stated by the Chairman of Cotton Export Corporation Nusrat Hasan at a reception held in Rajmarg this evening in honour of the Chinese delegation.

He called upon the ginners not only to maintain the present standard but also to better it further.

He said the corporation had given training to 200 persons in the institute of grading and classing of cotton last year. While another 200 persons would be trained this year. He said an institute for the training of ginners is also being started this year.

In addition, he said a modern godown was being constructed at Karachi to store the surplus

stocks up to one year without causing any damage to the cotton.

Earlier, the leader of the Chinese delegation Ku-Wen-pu said that the people of China were extremely happy to get best quality of cotton from Pakistan. He said that the cotton trade with Pakistan has further cemented ties of friendship between the two countries and this friendship would go from generation to generation.

Earlier the delegation was given a warm welcome at Multan when they crossed over into Punjab after visiting the cotton zone in Sindh province.

Chinese delegation was accompanied by the Cotton Export Corporation's Chairman and visited the shrine of Sufi poet Khwaja Ghulam Farid. The members of the Chinese delegation evinced keen interest in the historical structure of the mosque, particularly the wood work and Khatimari.—APP.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

SUBVERSIVE HANDBILLS CONFISCATED--Peshawar, Jan. 24--The Government of NWFP has forfeited two hand bills, captioned "Yehan bhe aisa din zaroor nayaga aur phir" and "Aayatullah Ki Azan" purportedly issued by Sind National Students Federation and Idara Sadai Baluchistan Karachi. These contained material aimed at exciting disaffection towards the present regime in Pakistan and were likely to prejudice Pakistan's friendly relations with the government of Iraq.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 25 Jan 81 p 3]

HUMAN WASTE BIO-GAS PLANTS--Lahore, Jan 25--The city of Lahore will have a couple of bio-gas plants run on human excretions. Lahore Municipal Corporation is learnt to have sought technical assistance of the local Appropriate Technology Development Organisation (ATDO), a subsidiary of the Ministry of Science and Technology. The mayor of Lahore, Mian Shuja Urrehman recently paid visit to a nearby village where a bio-gas plant has been installed by the ATDO and expressed his satisfaction over the functioning of the plant. The mayor asked the ATDO to prepare a plan for the LMC to install a few bio-gas plants on experimental basis which could be fed on human excretions. The ATDO is to solve the technical problem relating to separation of certain materials from human excretions as their presence will gradually choke the ditches used to contain bio-gas formed through the natural process.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 26 Jan 81 p 2]

BALUCHISTAN FISHERY PROJECTS--Quetta, Jan. 24--The Baluchistan Development Authority is currently working on two projects for the development of fisheries in Baluchistan. Under the schemes, a fish harbour will be set up at Sonmiani and another at Pasni. The total estimated cost of both the projects is 259.79 million rupees. A sum of Rs. 4.41 million has been allocated for the projects in the current financial year. The projects will provide on shore facilities like marketing halt, ice-plant, cold storage, slipway, workshop, provision of necessary infrastructural facilities like roads, water, power, etc. These facilities would help a great deal to expand this important foreign exchange earning industry while on the other hand it would benefit a large number of fishermen of the area who earn their living from fishing industry.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 25 Jan 81 p 1]

PAMPHLET FORFEITED--Quetta, Jan 21--The Government of Baluchistan has immediately forfeited a pamphlet issued by the Pashtoon Students Federation in Loralai which contains objectionable material falling under West Pakistan Press and Publication Ordinance, 1963, says an official handout issued here yesterday.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 22 Jan 81 p 4]

KPT HANDLES HUGE OIL TANKERS--The Karachi Port has now started accomodating oil tankers of 45,000 deadweight tonnage conventional and 75,000 deadweight tonnage for special purpose at its oil terminals. This was possible after deepening the entrance harbour channel to 40 feet and the lower harbour to 37 feet. It may be mentioned that the limiting draft for the new tankers is 39 feet. Till the end of 1980, oil tankers up to 32,000 deadweight tonnage could be accomodated at the oil terminals. According to KPT, this improvement in the harbour channel is a big step forward and will bring freight rate savings to Pakistan economy of the order of 10 million dollars a year. Meanwhile, container marshalling yard at the M.I. Yard is ready and in operation. This Yard has an area of 15 acres and is at present handling 40,000 TEU's (20 ton units). The container marshalling yard at Keamari is well advanced with a storage area of 25 acres and will commence operation by the end of 1981. [Mansoor Alam] [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 16 Jan 81 p 8]

CSO: 4220

MASSIVE ROAD BUILDING PROGRAM IN SOUTH

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 11 Jan 81 p 2

[Text]

WITHIN the next five years, Southern Philippines is expected to undergo a massive road-building program which will open up new agricultural frontiers and hasten development.

"This will depend on the response of foreign lending institutions to the P2.1 billion road building project which we are finalizing," said Highways Minister Jesus Hipolito.

Hipolito said the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, one of the institutions being eyed to finance the program, has shown keen interest in road building in Central Mindanao by extending recently an \$8 million loan for the three projects in Maguindanao.

...

THE LOAN will finance the construction of 21 kilometers of concrete roads in the towns of

Isulan, Tacurong and Dulawan and a 21-km gravel road in Maganoy and Sultan Kudarat, all in Maguindanao.

"The loan was released this year, and if this signifies anything, it is that foreign lending institutions are willing to support our undertakings in the South," Hipolito said.

The Australian government, through the Philippine-Australian Development Assistance Program, is another foreign entity that is working hand in hand with the Philippine government to undertake road projects in Southern Philippines.

"There is also the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan which financed the ambitious Daang Maharlika," Hipolito stressed.

The OECF is being eyed to finance Phase II of the Daang Maharlika in Southern Philippines.

This package will involve the

construction of 460 kilometers of concrete road which will pass through the coastal areas in General Santos City, Cotabato City and Lanao.

The roads will literally open up the coastal towns of Palembang, Lebak, Kalamansig in Sultan Kudarat which are still only accessible through the Celebes Sea or through the occasional planes which fly to the lumber companies in the area.

The impact of this project estimated to cost P500 million is immeasurable, said one Sultan Kudarat provincial official.

"The detailed engineering studies of the project has been completed and we expect to start the exchange of notes with the Japanese government by March this year," said Jose Salvador, director of the Philippine-Japan Highway Loan Project (PNA)

CSO: 4220

BANK OF INVESTMENT APPROVES PALM OIL VENTURE

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 13 Jan 81 p 9

[Article by Rosario A. Liguica]

[Text]

THE Board of Investments (BOI) has approved the P295.11-million integrated palm oil project of Plantation Development Corp. - a joint venture between the state-owned National Development Co. and the Malaysia-based Dunlop International Ltd. of Britain.

The project, to be located in a 5,000-hectare lot in Agusan del Sur, was approved under the agricultural investment priorities act (PD 1159). It is also entitled to additional incentives under Batas Pambansa 22, Agusan del Sur being a less developed area, according to the BOI.

The PDC project will turn out 26,000 metric tons (MT) of oil and 5,000 MT palm kernel annually. It will generate employment for some 440 persons, the BOI said.

THE company has an authorized capitalization of P100 million, P25 million of which is paid-up. Its key officers are NDC president Antonio Carpio, chairman and president; Rafael Suarez, also an NDC official, executive vice president; and Peter Darfield, director for operations and general manager.

The project's entire production will be exported to Malaysia where the produce will be processed into both edible and non-edible oil, the BOI said. It will enter into a technical assistance agreement with Dunlop Estate Enoch of Malaysia for specialized services.

Edible palm oil is used in the production of margarine, shortening, cooking oil and other food products, while the non-edible oil is used in the manufacture of soap, detergents,

lube oil and similar products.

...

THE BOI also approved the P102.6 million gold ore mining and milling expansion project of Benguet Corp. under the investment incentives act.

The expansion project involves an increase in gold output by 8,000 ounces a month on top of the existing 3,200 ounces monthly production. The project will generate employment for 52 persons, bringing to 3,391 the gold company's total labor force.

The BOI at the same time approved the manufacture by Alcon, Inc. of alcon water heaters under the energy priorities plan on a pioneer status.

The P22.9 million project will employ some 740 workers.

CARDINAL SIN ON MARTIAL LAW LIFTING

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 23 Jan 81 pp 1, 2

[Text]

JAIME Cardinal Sin asked Filipinos yesterday to forgive past mistakes and said President Marcos may have acted wisely in not restoring all their freedoms immediately after eight years of martial law.

In a speech to businessmen and professionals, Cardinal Sin also asked Filipinos to be more vigilant and vocal about their rights during the post-martial law period.

But at the same time, he asked them to give Marcos a "chance to show his sincerity."

The Cardinal said that while it was still too early to judge the authenticity of Marcos' "normalization" program, "I believe that the less than total restoration of our rights is not a sign of insincerity, that it might be a meaningful and prudent exercise of good judgment.

"In other words, I believe it would be unwise for the President to restore our rights completely in one fell swoop."

THE MANILA archbishop noted World War II Filipino soldiers who either got sick or died for taking too much food after months of starvation.

"Might not the same happen here in the area of human rights," he asked.

"By lifting martial law, 'even with a lot of limitations,' Marcos 'opened a door a little,' Sin said. As a result, he added, "we now have a small outlet for the heat and fire of the smoldering political volcano that the Philippines was under martial law."

That opening, according to the 52-year-old Cardinal, would grow wider and wider but only if Filipinos are vigilant about irregularities and raise their voices in a chorus of protest so loud the authorities will listen.

On martial law abuses, Sin said that because many had been offended, the tendency is for revenge now that martial law has been lifted.

"During this period we have to think about Christian forgiveness," Sin said because "it is very, very dangerous that after this lifting still we have this spirit of retaliation in our hearts." (AP)

CSO: 4220

PROPOSED AMENDMENT SPARKS LEGAL CRISIS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 Dec 80 p 1

[Article by Gamini Navaratne]

[Text] Colombo, December 30.

A constitutional and legal crisis of the first magnitude appeared to have arisen in Sri Lanka with the supreme court, in a communication to President Jayewardene, expressing strong reservations yesterday about the United National Party government's proposed third amendment to the constitution.

The amendment is designed to enable the winner of the Kalawana by-election on January 12 to take his seat in parliament while the ruling party's nominated member to the same seat, Mr. A. Pilapitiya, also could continue being member. It has the effect of increasing the house strength from 168 to 169.

The amendment was submitted in the form of a bill to the supreme court for ruling within 24 hours whether it conformed to the constitution.

When the matter was taken up on Friday before a special five-judge constitutional bench of the supreme court, the chief justice, Mr. Neville Samarakoon, who presided, observed that Parliament under the 1978 constitution had no right to accommodate a member without the consent of the people. If Parliament wanted to increase the number of members it should go back to the people and hold a referendum as provided in the constitution under which the "people are supreme".

The attorney-general, Mr. Siva Pasupathy, appearing on behalf of the government, said the purpose of the bill was to make the elected member deemed to be member without affecting the rights of the nominated member.

(Mr. Pilapitiya was nominated to the seat while a petition against his election was pending before the supreme court. The supreme court subsequently held his original election to parliament in the 1977 general election void on grounds of corrupt practice by one of his agents. The speaker, Mr. Bakeer Markar, held Mr. Pilapitiya to be still a member by virtue of his nomination). The supreme court, while rendering his election void, made no ruling on the member's nomination.

The chief justice said: "We have already declared the election void and the Kalawana seat vacant. President Jayewardene has also declared the seat vacant

and ordered a by-election. Do you say that the speaker is not bound by the decision of the President?"

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka civil rights movement, in a petition to the court, has also protested strongly against the government's attempt to usurp the sovereignty of the people.

The speaker and the President are bound by the constitution, according to which Parliament should consist of only 168 members until August, 1983, said the chief justice, giving the Supreme Court's decision.

The five-member bench heard submissions by the attorney-general on behalf of the government and by Mr. S. Nadesan, Q.C., representing the civil rights movement.

The chief justice also asked the attorney-general under what powers of the constitution the speaker had made his ruling, and added that the speaker and the President were bound by the constitution. The attorney-general replied that the decision of the speaker was not bound by the courts and that parliament had the power to decide.

Mr. Justice Wanasundera, a member of the court, said that since other seats had one-member representation and Kalawana two, it would affect the franchise. The attorney-general, Mr. Shiva Pasupati, submitted that the amendment would promote the franchise. [as published]

The chief justice then asked whether parliament could appoint 50 members for the Colombo central seat without affecting franchise. Mr. Pasupati said, "I am being confronted with a situation", to which the former said, "you brought it up. The constitution says that the 168 members of parliament should function until August 4, 1983." [as published]

Mr. Pasupati's submission was that parliament wanted to give the elected member a chance without prejudicing his rights.

CSO: 4220

DEVELOPMENTS IN TAMIL SPEAKING AREAS REPORTED

Colombo SUN in English 16 Jan 81 p 3

[Text]

Development of Tamil areas in Sri Lanka will soon be given a boost, Regional Development Minister S. Rajadurai has said in an interview with the Madras 'Hindu'.

In the interview conducted as background coverage for the World Tamil Research Conference in Madurai, Mr. Rajadurai has said the Government had drawn up massive schemes for integrated rural development. International agencies such as the World Bank would be approached for financial assistance.

The paper has stated that emphasis would be placed on the provision of clean drinking water, better roads and electricity. The scheme for Batticaloa was estimated to cost Rs 320 million (SLR) and the scheme for Mannar Rs. 360 million (SLR).

Besides these, industrial development would also be given fillip by way of large scale expansion programmes. The cement factory at Puttalam, the chemical, sugar, paper and other industrial units would also be expanded.

Under a decentralised budget, each of the 168 constituencies has been allotted Rs. 2.5 million, which the representative of each area in Parliament, irrespective of his party affiliation, could spend on schemes drawn up by him.

The interests of Tamil-speaking northern and southern provinces were being well taken care of by the Government through constitutional guarantees.

Tamil had been made the court language in those areas and the Tamil-speaking people could correspond with the Government in their mother tongue, though the official language was Sinhala.

The repatriates from Sri Lanka to India were allowed to take back all their savings.

Sri Lanka's President J. R. Jayewardene was quite keen on developing ties between Sri Lanka and India and also in promoting understanding between Tamils in the two countries.

Mr. Rajadurai has said his ministry had been responsible for banning animal sacrifices in Hindu temples all over the country.

THAILAND

COLUMNIST PRAISES SADAT FOREIGN POLICY

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 27 Nov 80 p 3

[A Look At the World Today column by Alongkorn Phonlabut: "A Lesson From Sadat"]

[Text] "The world cannot buy Egypt."

This statement was made by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace and a person who has been praised as a present-day world statesman.

The above remark was made after the Arab League proposed, in November 1979, giving 50 billion dollars in aid over a 10 year period if Egypt would in turn break off the Middle East peace negotiations with Israel.

Sadat has not only dared to refuse a great sum of money from the Arab League, but he has also refused to have friendly relations with the 18 Arab nations because on 31 March 1980, these Arab countries announced that they were severing relations with Egypt.

Why was Sadat bold enough to do this?

It can be said that Sadat obtained peace and other benefits for the country.

On 26 March 1980, President Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin, the prime minister of Israel, signed the Camp David Middle East peace agreement in Washington amidst the great resentment of the Arab world since the other Arab countries felt that Egypt had wrongly joined hands with the enemy, that is, with the Jews. But Sadat did not feel that war was the way to solve the problems and that only peace would bring peace.

The signing of this agreement ended hostilities between the Jews and Egypt, which had continued for almost 31 years, and land that Israel had seized during the Six-Day War was returned to Egypt without the need for any more deaths and tears.

It appears that 99.95 percent of the Egyptian people supported Sadat.

Then in September, the Iraq-Iran war broke out. Sadat called on the United States to extend its protection over other Arab-Moslem countries in the Middle East and gave the United States permission to temporarily use Egypt as a base of military operations for this.

Several countries, especially the extremist Arabs such as Libya and Algeria, felt that Egypt was making friends with the enemy and that Sadat was selling out the country to America.

But this was a great misunderstanding.

What is the reason for this?

At the beginning of November, Sadat announced at a conference of the National Association of Newspapers that he will inform Mr Ronald Reagan, the new president of the United States, about things, the gist of which is:

"Go to hell, Mr Reagan."

The Egyptian leader expanded on this by saying that he is ready to state the above if Mr Reagan formulates a policy that is unfriendly toward Egypt. Anwar Sadat repeated that the friendly relations between the United States and Egypt may deteriorate if Mr Reagan uses the methods of John Foster Dulles, the former secretary of state during the Eisenhower administration, and the policies of Lyndon Johnson, who made threatening proposals forcing Egypt to choose between allowing the United States to use military bases in Egypt or losing the aid money given by the United States and who treated him the same way that former president Gamal Abdel Nasser was treated in the case of the Aswan Dam in June 1956. But Sadat has not said whether or not he will move Egypt closer to the Soviet Union as Nasser did if Reagan uses the policies of Dulles and Johnson.

Sadat has stated that Egypt is ready to provide the United States with necessary military facilities at times but the United States cannot come in and build permanent military bases in an independent like Egypt.

However, President Sadat has shown his cleverness by first "hitting" Reagan and then "patting him on the back," saying that, at present, the friendly relations between the United States and Egypt are progressing smoothly with mutual good feelings and that the United States is the important key to peace in the Middle East because without the United States there would not have been a Camp David agreement.

The diplomatic cleverness of President Sadat is an example of a foreign policy that blends the national interests, the principles of peaceful coexistence and flexibility in implementing a step-by-step policy.

This is a lesson in foreign affairs that should be watched.

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CSO: 4207

THAILAND

EDITORIAL URGES CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION FOR MORE FREEDOM

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 9 Dec 80 p 4

[Editorial: "Strive to Revise the Constitution"]

[Text] At present, an effort is being made to revise the constitution and a committee, with General Thavit Seni Wong Na Ayuthaya and Colonel Somkhit Sisangkham as advisors and chairmen, has been established to carry out this task. The work has progressed to the point where religious ceremonies have been arranged on Thailand's 48th anniversary of the implementation of a constitutional [monarchy]. The ceremonies will be held on 10 December at the Democracy Monument and a discussion will be held at a hotel the same day.

As a basis for revising the constitution, the committee feels that there are 12 articles in the constitution that must be revised. That is, there must be an article concerning the rights of men and women so that the two sexes are equal; criminal suspects must receive justice; there must be freedom of speech and freedom to write, publish and advertise in accord with the constitution of 1974; there must be freedom of assembly; there must be election methods that are just; there must be fewer restrictions on the people who run for office and on the voters; the number and role of the senators must be reduced; regular government officials must be kept out of politics; and the use of martial law must have the approval of parliament and so on.

In reality, these are all old matters that have been discussed in the past. In discussing the present constitution, the intention of including a way to change the constitution was shown by stipulating this in Article 194 of the constitution. Thus, the view that the constitution should be revised and the activities that are being carried on in accord with that view, or the discussions on making changes that the parliamentary committee are holding at present, are in harmony both in and outside parliament.

Before the elections, which were based on the present constitution, many MP's used [the theme of] constitutional changes as a tool to get elected. They promised that if they were elected they would make the constitution more democratic, and parliament did establish a committee to discuss revising the constitution. The only thing is, when will the revisions be completed and when will it be possible to present [the revised constitution] to parliament, with the cooperation of the stipulated number of MP's?

The only explanation for why revising the constitution has taken so long is that, when they entered parliament, they had other duties to carry out at the same time. This is normal. The only unusual thing is that some MP's have expressed the view that a "half" democratic constitution is fine. It is very sad that some people hold such a view because it shows their "selfishness" and their unwillingness to consider the future of later generations. However, there are only a few such people in the present parliament. We are thus confident that revising the constitution will finally be completed.

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CSO: 4207

THAILAND

GEN CHUAN: CPT, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, CORRUPTION PLAGUE SOUTH

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 3 Dec 80 pp 6, 14

[Pha Chivit column by Naiyana Phornwinat: "Lieutenant General Chuan Wannarat, the Government's Focal Point Concerning the Problems and the Situation In the South"]

[Text] "The Fourth Army and the Internal Security Operations Command, Region 4, together with 14 MP's from the southern provinces, the police commissioner of the provincial 4 and the governors and police superintendents of every province held a "war conditions" seminar. How can the suppression of the southern terrorists ever be completed if government officials keep falling under the influence of the 'Lords?'"

On 18 April 1980, the Fourth Army and the Internal Security Operations Command, Region 4, held a conference with MP's from 14 southern provinces and the mass media concerning the situation and ways to solve the problems in the south.

On that important day, it was stipulated that another conference would be held on 22 November 1980 at the Wachirawut Camp in Nakhon Sithammarat Province in order to obtain important data on the operations aimed at creating peace and well-being for the people in the south and, in particular, on the communist terrorist problem that is today creating very serious troubles for the south.

In the afternoon of the day of the conference, in front of MP's, the mass media, civil servants, soldiers and police, Lieutenant General Chuan Wannarat, the commanding general of the Fourth Army Area, strongly stressed the importance of many things but here I will discuss only some of the most important matters that are of mutual benefit at a time when the south is experiencing troubles. Lieutenant General Chuan Wannarat stated that:

Our experiences in fighting the terrorists have taught us that the tasks in serving the country and in defending Thailand are not the responsibility of just one person and, in particular, they are not

the responsibility of the military alone, of the police alone or of government officials alone. They are the responsibility of all Thais who live under the kind protection of the king. All must join together to defend Thailand. The first duty, which is the ultimate goal of the activities, of the Fourth Army Area and of the Internal Security Operations Command, Region 4, is to "carry out everything in order to realize and preserve peace and well-being in the south" by separating the activities into "political activities" and "military activities."

As for the political activities, which includes using economic, administrative and social measures to solve the problems, the Fourth Army Area holds these to be basic measures in accord with the policy of "politics is the basis of the military." As for 1979, the Fourth Army Area and the Internal Security Operations Command, Region 4, set as their basic goal the task of eliminating the "war conditions" that are the root of all the trouble in the south and that are important factors that the Communist Party of Thailand is using as conditions for carrying on the revolutionary war in the south at present.

The war conditions in the south include: economic injustice, which includes irresponsible pressure from the merchants and capitalists who lack a sense of being Thai, smuggling and the destruction of the forests, which is greatly sapping the energy of the country; administrative injustice, which has arisen from bad officials who act in improper ways and who act unjustly toward the people, who pay taxes in order to have government officials serve them -- but instead, these officials take the opportunity to cause trouble for the people; and social injustice, which has arisen because of secret influential groups, including the terrorists who pressure the innocent people, who do not want to fight, and who have caused fear to spread throughout the south.

During the heated discussion with the commanding general of the Fourth Army Area, Miss Suphattra Madit, an MP from Nakhon Sithammarat and a member of the Prachathipat Party, asked what measures the commanding general was taking to suppress the dangers in the south. Lieutenant General Chuan Wannarat stated that, among the various things, the problem of government officials falling under the influence of the "lords" will be solved. At first, peaceful appeals will be made and things will be reported to Mr Pratuang Kiratibutra, the minister of interior, along with submitting things in stages to General Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister.

As for the other matters discussed at the conference, Lieutenant General Chuan Wannarat also stated that, as for the causes of these various problems, the forces of the Fourth Army Area and of the Internal Security Operations Command, Region 4, will have difficulty eliminating the causes if there is no cooperation from the MP's and

the mass media. It is widely recognized that these are the people who are the closest to the masses and who really know the problems, sufferings and needs of the masses. In short, they are the ones who know the "war conditions" from the standpoint of what is most true and it is they who can help determine what should be done in order to eliminate the "war conditions" as quickly as possible.

"As for carrying on military operations, which refers to the use of armed force by officials involved and which I would like to stress in the matter of fighting the terrorists in the south, I will discuss this only briefly because of the importance of consulting with each other today about eliminating the "war conditions" that I have described. However, I would like to discuss the activities of a unit that people in general are interested in, the special guerrilla forces.

"On 18 April, at our first conference, we had a very wideranging discussion on the special guerrilla forces. We would like to tell you, in order to show our admiration for the MP's that we elected to represent us, that the ideas that you gave us that day enabled us to satisfactorily solve the problems of the special guerrilla forces. It can be seen that, since April, the special guerrilla forces have made satisfactory strides in reducing the number of mistakes made in carrying out their tasks. The Fourth Army Area would like to affirm at this conference that we will continue to try to turn our special guerrilla forces into an efficient unit."

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1st DIVISION COMMANDER SAYS NO COUP IF NO DISORDER

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 5 Dec 80 p 16

[Article: "Commander of the 1st Division Discusses Possibility of Being Used As an Instrument of Revolution"]

[Text] Major General Suchin Arayakun, the commander of the Royal 1st Division, answered a reporter's questions yesterday morning at 1st Division headquarters. Discussing the matter of the Royal 1st Division frequently being used by powerful people as an instrument of revolution, he stated that this depends on the situation. But at present there is no necessity for this. The military will engage in such activities only when there are people who have bad intentions toward the country. But in peaceful periods no one will engage in such activities.

Asked about the economic problems, concerning which there are many critics at present, the commander of the Royal 1st Division stated that while it is true that prices have risen, the government is solving the problems because, since it has freely undertaken to do so, it should be possible to solve these problems.

As for whether things have reached the point where people have been mobilized and there will be a coup, Major General Suchin stated that "that point has not yet been reached."

As for the situation along the border in the areas for which he is responsible, Major General Suchin stated that the situation is somewhat unusual in that the Khmer side is slowly increasing movements because it is the dry season. Both the Khieu Samphan and Heng Samrin sides are conducting operations against each other. This has led to some incursions into Thailand but our army has immediately chased these people out.

Asked whether the forces of the enemy are strong enough to pose a danger to Thailand, Major General Suchin stated that the enemy's forces are small and they are scattered about. To invade Thailand,

they would have to be strengthened considerably. We are constantly on the alert and are always prepared. At present, there are no conflicts.

As for the problem of the black market, where Thais trade with the enemy along the border with Kampuchea, the commander of the Royal 1st Division stated that we do not want this problem but a few people secretly trade goods. The military has constantly tried to put a stop to this. At the same time, Major General Suchin stated that there is still no policy entrusting the Ministry of Interior with the task of controlling this. Joint suppression activities will be carried on with the administrative sector.

Before giving this interview, Major General Suchin presided [at a ceremony] to give aid money to the survivors of those killed in the line of duty.

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COLUMNIST URGES SUPPORT FOR LPDR AS BUFFER STATE

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 10 Dec 80 p 3

[A Look At the World Today column by "Free Man": "Thai-Lao Relations"]

[Text] Last Tuesday, the government of Laos held ceremonies and a parade to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Lao Revolution. The ceremonies were held in Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

Souphanouvong, the president, and Kayson Phomvihan, the prime minister of Laos, stood and accepted the salutations of the people in the parade and cordially addressed the people attending the ceremonies.

There was a display of new weapons that had been received from the Soviet Union and Meo soldiers took part in this parade too.

Kayson Phomvihan expressed gratitude for the aid from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries that have given aid to Laos and he announced that Laos intends to live in peace with neighboring countries.

On that day, the Lao government announced the opening of the border with Thailand and stationed forces to defend against the right-wing Lao groups across the Mekong River who enter Laos to commit acts of sabotage. Because Vientiane, the capital of Laos, is located on the opposite side of the Mekong River from Thailand's Nong Khai Province, and on the Thai side there are large numbers of Lao people who fled here from the communist threat. Some of these Lao people might have secretly crossed the Mekong River back into Laos to set off charges and disrupt the ceremonies celebrating the revolution of the Lao communist government in Vientiane, but it appears that no acts of violence took place.

The Lao government took control of Vientiane in 1975 with the help of Vietnamese troops. After that the Lao communist government reformed the administration of the country in accord with the Marxist communist model. Vietnamese and Russian advisors helped the

Laos government in its efforts to improve the economy so that the country could stand on its own. But the terrain, which is filled with mountains and high plateaus, was an obstacle to developing the country's agriculture and this led to Laos having to again rely on Thailand, which is closely related to Laos ethnically, culturally and linguistically even though the political ideals are different.

Based on its geographical location, it can be said that Laos is important to the security of Thailand. In the past, Laos served as a buffer country between communist China and Thailand. At present, even though the Chinese government has diplomatic relations with Thailand, the Chinese Communist Party still supports the Communist Party of Thailand in its attempt to seize administrative power in Thailand. Thus, Laos is still important as a buffer between Communist China and Thailand.

Laos is a large country territorially but its population is too small to protect the independence of the country. Thus, it has easily fallen under the influence and sway of foreign troops that are stronger. Giving economic aid to Laos so that it can rely on itself is one way to reduce the foreign influence in the internal affairs of Laos.

Important people in Laos such as Souphanouvong and Kayson Phomviharn, the present prime minister of Laos, fled to Thailand for political reasons during the war with France to restore independence. These relations are at least a reminder to the leaders of Laos that Thailand once played a part in helping Laos gain independence from France.

The Thai and Lao governments have the same goals in setting a policy of peaceful coexistence and noninterference in the internal affairs of the other. We think that if both sides are honest with each other, there will be a greater chance for peace in this part of the world.

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ELEVATION OF LABOR DEPARTMENT TO MINISTRY STUDIED

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 7 Dec 80 pp 1, 2

[Article: "An Act Has Been Promulgated to Elevate the Status of the Labor Department"]

[Text] An act to elevate the Labor Department and make it the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare has been promulgated. At the same time, it was sent to the deputy minister of interior for consideration before being presented at a cabinet meeting. The deputy director-general of the Labor Department revealed that raising the status from department to ministry will increase efficiency since labor is considered to be an important element.

This was revealed by Mr Wichit Sisaan in his capacity as chairman of the National Labor Development Advisory Council. He revealed the details, which included the designs, structure and work divisions, to Mr Kasem Sisamphan, the deputy minister of interior.

The chairman of the Advisory Council did not want to reveal the details of this act. He pointed out that these should [first] be considered by the deputy minister of interior. But in general, this act concerns labor and social welfare matters and stresses social security. Concerning this social security act, the advisory council has already presented it to the Ministry of Interior.

Mr Charoen Siriphan, the deputy director-general of the Labor Department, gave his views on elevating the Labor Department and making it the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. He stated that this will enable labor affairs to be carried out more efficiently than at present. He also believes that this will have a good effect on the economic situation in general. This is because labor is an important factor in production.

Besides this, at present, the labor problems are not just domestic problems. The problems concern having to compete in foreign markets. Elevating the status of the department will enable the administration of such tasks to achieve better results for the country.

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MINE WORKS TO GET HYDROELECTRIC POWER

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 1 Dec 80 pp 3, 8

[Article: "Hydroelectric Power to Aid Mining"]

[Text] The Department of Mineral Resources, in cooperation with the National Energy Administration, has made plans to develop hydroelectric [power] on a small scale in order to help relieve the shortage of fuel oil in mining. During the first phase, this will be carried out in the areas of Muang Sa Moeng village in Chiang Mai and Muang Pi Loc in Kanchannaburi, which are areas where there is much water. Several villages have mines, or mine works, that need large sources of nearby electricity.

This project is being undertaken because most of the mineral deposits are in remote areas where communications are inconvenient. This makes it necessary for the mines to have to buy fuel oil at very high prices. Sometimes they cannot find oil to purchase and this is an obstacle in developing the mining industry. In addition to this, the National Energy Administration has plans for a small-scale hydroelectric power [plant] in accord with the projects considered by the king. From the suggestion of the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, the two units have coordinated the projects to obtain electricity for the people and for the mines and it has been proposed that the projects be included in the Fifth Development Plan. Besides this, USAID officials have shown interest in and a willingness to support these projects.

As for the project that will be implemented in Muang Sa Moeng and Muang Pi Lok villages, based on the results of the surveys and the measurement of the amounts of water, it appears that there is enough water to build a hydroelectric power plant with a capacity of 600 to 1,000 kilowatts.

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USSR TO ASSIST IN OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 29 Nov 80 pp 1, 16

[Article: "Russia Will Help Thailand Search For and Extract Oil Shale"]

[Text] Dr Anuvat Wattanaphongsiri, the minister of science, technology and energy, talked with reporters in the VIP lounge at the Bangkok Municipal Airport after his return from the Soviet Union around noon yesterday (28 November). He stated that, on this trip, he had had a chance to meet several important people in the Russian government. But politics was not discussed directly. Instead they talked about scientific and technological cooperation, concerning which there are four major principles: nuclear and atomic energy, energy using oil shale, the development of oil shale and scientific and technological cooperation.

The minister of science, technology and energy also stated that, concerning the oil shale industry, the Soviet Union is a leader in technology and it has the largest industry in the world. It has used oil shale to produce electrical energy for more than 20 years. Concerning oil shale, they will be glad to cooperate with and give scientific advice to Thailand since we have much oil shale. When we sent a sample to them to analyze, it turned out that our oil shale has a high percentage of oil and the oil is a type that can be used. Next January, the Ministry of Industry will send officials to go observe their use of energy from oil shale so that Thailand can implement this too.

Dr Anuvat Wattanaphongsiri also stated that, during his trip to the Soviet Union this time, the atmosphere was very good. Besides meeting important people, he also met Mr Sarkisov, a deputy chairman of the Presidium. They talked about cooperation between Thailand and the Soviet Union and the desirability of having closer relations in the field of technology. Besides this, they talked about Asean with regard to trade matters. All of these countries trade with the Soviet Union. In particular, Thailand sells the Soviet Union more

than 100 million baht worth of rice and corn each year. They also discussed the Mekong River project, which will benefit the people of Indochina on the electrical energy, agricultural, fishing and river travel fronts. In particular, the Phamong Dam will bring great benefits to the people living in the northeast.

The minister of science, technology and energy stated that, concerning this project to use the water power of the Mekong River, he told the Russian deputy chairman that if this project can be completed it will greatly benefit the people in this region. We have already gathered the data but we have encountered political problems. The four countries [involved], that is, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea, have not been able to reach an agreement. Concerning this matter, the Russian deputy chairman stated that he would be glad to discuss this matter and he asked that the Thai government officially request his help so that he can help solve the problem so that there is cooperation.

The reporters asked whether they had discussed the matter of Soviet vessels intruding into Thai territorial waters. Dr Anuwat replied that they had not discussed this. But he learned from the Thai ambassador, Mr Sathid Sathienthai, that concerning this matter, the Russians have said that they only sailed across the open sea. Thus, he does not know who to inform since they [say that] they did not intrude on Thai territorial waters.

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FOREIGN OIL SHALE AID--The Department of Mineral Resources has stated that around the end of this year and the beginning of 1981, the Federal Republic of Germany will be asked to send 19 specialists to come estimate the possibilities of opening an oil shale mine in Mae Sot District. They will consider the benefits of using oil shale in the country's industrial operations in the future. Since September 1979, oil shale experts from the Federal Republic of Germany, who were hired by the Thai government, have conducted initial studies concerning these oil shale deposits. The results of the studies obtained from the estimates and analyses of the existing data and the terrain and oil shale samples in this area can be summarized as follows: There is a total of 18.5 billion tons of oil shale in the Mae Sot basin. The Moei, Mae Sot and Mae Moh mines here are suitable for development and the construction of power plants and oil extraction plants. [Text] [Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 2 Dec 80 pp 3, 2] 11943

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